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Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation—Iranian forces continued their advance toward the international border in the central sector over the weekend, "liberating" the towns of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Qasr-e Shirin, and Sumar, Tehran radio announced. An Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA stressed that Iraqi forces withdrew from these areas unilaterally in accordance with a decision to evacuate occupied Iranian towns and hamlets by 31 July.

As for the incursion into Iran by the opposition Iranian National Liberation Army (INLA), a statement carried by the Mojahedin-e Khalq's clandestine radio 29 July affirmed that the INLA withdrew from Eslamabad-e Gharb and Karand 28 July to reorganize its forces, INA noted. An Iranian commander cited by IRNA claimed that documents captured from the INLA show that its advance was part of an attempt to march on Tehran in a four-stage plan, starting with a swift advance on Bakhtaran.

In a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated that the INLA forces entered Iran in a column of some 1,000 vehicles, thinking they would obtain an "avalanche" of popular support and would sweep on to Tehran. However, Iranian forces blocked their advance and escape routes and Iranian planes and helicopters then started "mopping up" operations, Rafsanjani said. He accused the INLA of executing 30 wounded Iranians seized from a hospital in Eslamabad-e Gharb. IRNA subsequently announced that seven Mojahedin-e Khalq members who had "collaborated" with the INLA invasion were publicly executed in Bakhtaran 1 August.

Iranian Diplomatic Position—Iran will "not accept any preconditions from Iraq," Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stated in remarks reported by Tehran radio following further talks with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar 30 July. Iraq's insistence on direct talks is merely a way of "sabotaging" peace moves, Velayati said, adding that Iran will only accede to direct talks after a cease-fire, the withdrawal of forces, and exchange of POW's.

Velayati also viewed the secretary general's proposals on implementing Security Council Resolution 598 as "generally positive." In an earlier message to Perez de Cuellar cited by the radio, Velayati pointed out that Resolution 598 does not stipulate direct talks and he said there is no reason to hold direct negotiations prior to the implementation of the resolution.

In contrast to Velayati's remarks, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati was quoted by AFP as saying during a visit to the UAE that Iran has "no problem" with direct negotiations and is "ready for that." Besharati also stated that Iran will "do its best" to secure the release of Western hostages in Lebanon, the agency reported.

According to Voice of Lebanon radio, Besharati announced that his country will not attack ships in the Gulf during the current UN-sponsored peace talks. None of these remarks by Besharati was mentioned in IRNA's account of his visit to the UAE. Reporting on Besharati's talks with UAE President Shaykh Zayid, WAKH noted that the latter praised Iran's move toward peace and stressed the need to end the war as soon as possible.

Iraqi Diplomacy—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov met with the Iraqi ambassador in Moscow at the latter's request 30 July, TASS reported. The agency said the discussion was held in an atmosphere of "friendliness and frankness," with an exchange of opinions concerning the "swiftest possible cessation of the Iranian-Iraqi conflict."

In Baghdad, the visiting Egyptian defense minister held separate meetings over the weekend with his Iraqi counterpart and with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, MENA noted. The two defense ministers discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in the field of military industries.

Iranian Missiles—Iran's IRGC minister announced 31 July that Iran will "soon" begin mass production of a surface-to-surface missile with a 160-km range, Tehran radio reported.

Jordan and the West Bank

Explaining his decision to cancel the West Bank development plan and dissolve the House of Representatives, King Husayn said these measures seek to enhance Palestinian identity and national orientation and are in accordance with Jordan's respect for the PLO's desire to "secede from us in an independent Palestinian state."

Speaking "to the Arab nation" in an address broadcast by Amman radio 31 July, Husayn said Jordan is responding to the "unanimous conviction that the struggle for liberating the occupied Palestinian territory can be bolstered by disengaging the legal and administrative relationship between the two banks."

Maintaining Jordan's legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank is an obstacle to the Palestinian struggle for international support and goes against the "general Arab and Palestinian orientation" which believes in the need to highlight Palestinian identity in full, he asserted. Jordan's measures are in response to PLO wishes, the king said, and they also stem from recognition that the previous "undecided situation" could not continue. He reassured Palestinians living in the East Bank that they will retain all their citizenship rights and will remain an "integral part" of the Jordanian state.

"Jordan is not Palestine and the independent Palestinian state will be established on the occupied Palestinian territory after its liberation," he added. The king stressed that Jordan will not relinquish its support for the Palestinian cause and remains a "basic party" to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process.

The king's speech followed the publication of a royal decree announcing the dissolution of the House of Representatives as of 30 July, according to PETRA-JNA. Noting that half of the deputies in the dissolved chamber represent the West Bank, a Jordanian source cited by Radio Monte Carlo disclosed that Husayn is also expected to abolish the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs. Political quarters in Amman said the move will leave Israel and the United States "no choice" but to negotiate directly with the PLO, the radio added.

Although Baghdad Voice of the PLO hailed the cancellation of the "so-called development plan" as a "positive step in the right direction," the radio subsequently warned that its initial optimism was misplaced, and it described Jordan's subsequent measures as "negative."

Complaining that Jordan "did not give us much time," the PLO radio said "these new steps came to bitterly destroy the positiveness and optimism of the first step." Jordan has introduced "strange measures" which attempt an "arbitrary separation" between Jordanians and Palestinians, and which "can hardly be explained as an independent Jordanian political action."

Despite the radio's concern, Jordanian sources cited by the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD stressed that the Jordanian passports held by Palestinians in the occupied territories will not be affected by the measures to "disengage" Jordan from the West Bank, according to WAKH.

In Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir contended that Husayn has "shattered the illusion that he is a partner in territorial compromise," THE JERUSALEM POST reported. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres viewed Husayn's address as more a declaration of intent than anything with practical implications, Jerusalem television noted.

Foreign Ministry sources cited by Jerusalem radio expressed disappointment over Husayn's announcement of a break in Jordan's administrative and legal links with the territories, but they asserted that the dissolution of the Jordanian parliament has "no practical significance." The sources contended that the "Jordanian-Palestinian option still exists," provided Israel takes advantage of it.

Among Palestinian reaction in the territories, IDF radio broadcast Hanna Sinyurah's remark that "the Jordanian option is dead," while Nabulus businessman Sa'id Kan'an told Jerusalem radio that King Husayn's measures leave the Israelis "no choice but to negotiate with the PLO."

Israel

Police raided the Arab Studies Center in East Jerusalem 31 July, closing it for 1 year and placing its director, Faysal al-Husayni, in administrative detention for 6 months, Jerusalem radio reported. Noting that Al-Husayni has already served 12 months detention in 1987-88, a police spokesman said that after his release on 9 June, Al-Husayn immediately returned to being Fatah's "chief operative" in the occupied territories.

Al-Husayni's activities allegedly included "carrying out subversive activity, incitement, and coordinating PLO policy in the area." Al-Husayni is among around 50 Arabs arrested by Jerusalem police in recent days on suspicion of disturbing the peace, the radio noted.

In another development, Jerusalem radio disclosed that police are recommending that three Israeli citizens be brought to trial on suspicion of having killed three Arabs in separate incidents this year.

Among further press coverage of the uprising, 'AL HAMISHMAR cited an interview with a "senior military source" who contended that the "war" against the "intifada" is "already lost," asserting that the way to put an end to it is through negotiations with the PLO.

In contrast, MA'ARIV published an advertisement by the Tehiya Movement, which called for action to "break the intifada rapidly and now." The measures recommended by Tehiya include the swift deportation of every "terrorist" and uprising activist, and the closure of Arab newspapers, trade unions, and other associations.

Lebanon

Hostages—Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, a Hizballah official in the Al-Biqa' Valley, accused U.S. hostage Colonel William Higgins of being a "spy," according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Al-Musawi remarked at a rally that Higgins was in the country "on a spying mission against Hizballah" and was arrested by the "oppressed of southern Lebanon" as part of their struggle to defend their existence and honor.

A "leading Islamic fundamentalist source" told the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD that discussion of the U.S. hostage issue will be "postponed for a long time" because it is "directly linked" with the U.S. "hostile policy" toward Iran, according to MENA. The source added that the three British and one German hostage will be released "very soon" after "good and positive" strides were made in "secret negotiations."

Reverend John Brown, Anglican bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf, called his talks with Lebanese Christian leaders on the fate of four Iranian hostages "a success," PRESS ASSOCIATION reported. Rev. Brown said on his arrival in Britain after the talks that he was sent to Beirut by the Archbishop of Canterbury to show that the church is "very much concerned" for all hostages.

Syrians—Two Syrian soldiers died after being wounded by gunfire 28 July in West Beirut, Voice of Lebanon radio stated.

In another development, a "senior security source" in Beirut told AL-ITTIHAD that one of the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner was "recently" handed over to Syrian security forces, MENA disclosed. He was among eight men handed over by Hizballah on charges of taking part in kidnapping operations in Beirut, the source added.

Tunisia

Democracy is one of the conditions for the "comprehensive national reconciliation" required in Tunisia and there is no democracy without pluralism, "honest elections," and freedom of speech and organization, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali asserted in a speech broadcast by Tunis radio 31 July.

Speaking at the closing session of a congress of the ruling party, recently renamed the Democratic Constitutional Rally, Ben Ali indicated that the era of the single-party system is over, stressing that the party cannot pretend to represent all the "active forces" in the country and that henceforth there will be no falsification of election results.

In an earlier address to the congress on 29 July, broadcast by the radio, Ben Ali emphasized that pluralism has become a "right" which should be be legally consolidated and he told delegates that the party must prove its fitness for government through competition with other parties, do away with "negative" past practices, and resume its role as a "custodian of reform and a driving force for development."

The president drew attention to the "evil obstacles" which faced the party during the last years of Habib Bourguiba's presidency, contending that the party lost its original values and became an instrument for "subjugation" and preserving the status quo, turning into a "mere apparatus" whose role was restricted to carrying out orders. The party hampered the struggles of other democratic forces and lost contact with them, he said, noting that this led to growing extremism and violence.

Ben Ali did not hold Bourguiba personally responsible for all this, but rather blamed the former president's "evil entourage," which "exploited his old age and the seriousness of his illness by concealing reality from him." Whatever the rights and wrongs of Bourguiba's deeds, Tunisians "cannot deny the service he gave the country," Ben Ali emphasized.

On economic policy, Ben Ali said Tunisia favors "free economic exchanges, away from ideological slogans and deceptive promises," stressing the importance of efficiency and flexibility in economic management. Nevertheless, the state will retain its "leading role" in the economy and its "socialist orientation," he contended. He told the congress in his closing speech that the change of party name does not mean that it has abandoned socialism.

As for the leadership of the party, Ben Ali announced his acceptance of proposals to make him party president, but he said the position of party director will be abolished, and the post of secretary general will no longer be held by a member of the government. Tunis radio reported that the new secretary general of the rally is Abderragun Zouari, and that Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche becomes deputy chairman, a new post announced by Ben Ali in his closing speech.

Libya

The U.S. decision to stop military and economic cooperation with Qatar because of the latter's unauthorized acquisition of Stinger missiles was condemned by the Foreign Liaison Bureau in a statement carried by JANA 29 July. The "aggressive" U.S. stance toward Qatar "clearly reveals the real enemy of the Arab motherland," the statement said, and it "confirms" Libya's view that Arab states should protect their interests by severing relations with the United States.

Gulf Affairs

Qatari-Soviet Relations—Envoys met 1 August in Paris and signed a communique establishing diplomatic relations between the USSR and Qatar, TASS announced. The move will promote the strengthening of "fresh trends" in international affairs, TASS declared.

Saudi-U.S. Relations—A "responsible source" cited by SPA 30 July dismissed Western media reports which cast "doubts" about Saudi-U.S. relations, stressing that the recent Saudi-British arms deal "cannot affect at all these relations, whose roots go back half a century." The source reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's desire to purchase aircraft and "advanced defensive weapons" from U.S. suppliers, noting that the Kingdom is continuing to consolidate its defense capabilities by purchasing whatever is necessary "from any state without any restrictions or conditions."

Thatcher Visit—British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher held talks with Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id during a 30 July visit to Oman, Muscat radio reported. Thatcher had earlier met with the Bahraini deputy amir in

Manama, WAKH disclosed, noting the Bahraini foreign minister's remark that their viewpoints were "identical" regarding efforts to achieve peace in the Gulf.

Yemen Arab Republic

A presidential decree broadcast by Sanaa radio 31 July announced the formation of a new government, which contained no changes in the foreign affairs or defense ministries. The formation of a 25-person Advisory Council was announced 30 July.

Afghanistan

Military Situation—"Criminal extremists" continued rocket attacks on residential areas of Kabul this weekend killing civilians, Kabul radio reported. To combat the rebel shelling, government forces set up security posts in hilly areas around southern Kabul where they discovered two surface-to-surface missile launchers, the radio added. Soviet troops are preparing for a "major offensive" around the capital, according to Western diplomatic sources cited by AFP.

The offensive is being prompted by rebel pressure on the capital, which is "too heavy to continue unchecked," and because the Afghan Armed Forces are too weak to push the rebels out of rocket range by themselves, the sources added.

Missile attacks also continued against Jalalabad, the radio noted. "Extremists" fired 34 rockets at residential areas of the city 30 July, killing five civilians. The Army commander in Nangarhar told BAKHTAR that the Armed Forces are in "firm control" of the situation in the province, TASS reported. He denied the "rumors" and "antigovernment propaganda" that Jalalabad would fall.

Qandahar city has been surrounded on three sides and its land route to Kabul "cut off" by resistance forces, according to rebel sources cited by XINHUA.

BAKHTAR Statement—"Foreign citizens" secretly invaded Afghan territory with the "active assistance" of rebel groups and "illegally extracted radioactive raw materials" and carried them to Pakistan, according to a statement by BAKHTAR. The government has taken the necessary measures to stop such "hostile activities," the statement added.

Pakistan needs to smuggle Afghan uranium ore and sell it to Israel "to fulfill its nuclear ambitions," Moscow Radio Peace and Progress declared in a broadcast in Persian to Iran. The ore sale is "yet another motive" for Pakistan's violation of the Geneva accords, the radio asserted.

Pakistani Denial—The Pakistani Justice Minister assured the Senate that the country has "faithfully observed" its obligations under the Geneva accords, Islamabad radio reported. He rejected Afghan and Soviet "propaganda and allegations" to the contrary as "incorrect." The Pakistani charge in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry 30 July and handed a "serious protest" of Pakistan's 16 July shelling of two Afghan border posts, Kabul radio disclosed.

Two Pakistanis were sentenced to death for their role in a Peshawar "bombing campaign" allegedly instigated by the Afghan authorities in retaliation for Islamabad's help to rebel fighters, according to newspaper reports cited by AFP.

Iranian Shooting—The Iranian charge was summoned by the Foreign Ministry 30 July and asked to explain the "massacre" of Afghan refugees in Zahedan by Iranian Revolutionary Guards, the radio indicated. The refugees, including a "large number" of women and children, were forced out of their tents and shot during a resettlement attempt, the radio stated.

British Evacuation—The United Kingdom has decided to evacuate 45 "non-essential" dependents from its diplomatic mission in Kabul because of the "deteriorating security situation," PRESS ASSOCIATION reported.

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Reaction to Jordanian Announcement

PLO's Qaddumi Comments

JN2907172288 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, yesterday made an exclusive statement to the Palestinian news agency WAFA on Jordan's announcement yesterday canceling the development plan it had approved for the occupied Palestinian territory. Following is the text of the statement:

The uprising continues to escalate to achieve the basic task of ending the occupation. We have already asserted that the basic problem is not one of economic development or a problem of improving the living conditions of our Palestinian people, notwithstanding the importance of that problem, especially in the occupied territory.

Our stand in that regard has always been clear. We [word indistinct] that the cause of liberation should be propounded from the angle of improving the living conditions of our people within the homeland.

Undoubtedly, the value of our stand has [word indistinct] through experience. The various development plans have been linked to political settlement plans which we do not accept and which ultimately inflict great harm on the Palestine question. However, that does not mean we do not acknowledge the importance of improving the living conditions of our people.

However, at Arab summits we in the PLO used to insist on completely assuming that responsibility with Arab support and backing.

In short, the PLO is capable—through its institutions and with comprehensive Arab support—of shouldering the responsibility of all political, economic, and military (?matters) in the occupied Palestinian territory.

That does not at all mean that the Palestinian revolution neglects the social and political ties with the fraternal Jordanian people. These historic ties have been consolidated by PNC resolutions.

Our relations with the Jordanian people are special relations. The PNC believes that the future of these relations is based on a confederation between two independent states in the future.

Furthermore, the Arab League Council affirmed in Cairo in 1975—in the presence and with the agreement of the Jordanian delegation then headed by Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i—the acquired rights of the Palestinian people in Jordan.

Decision 'Welcomed'

JN2907183088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (WAKH)—The PLO has welcomed yesterday's decision by the Jordanian Government to terminate the development plan for the occupied territory. A responsible Palestinian source described the decision as a step that will contribute to reinforcing Palestinian-Jordanian relations in the interest of the Palestinian cause.

In a statement to WAKH in Baghdad, the Palestinian source said the PLO Executive Committee will discuss this decision during its meeting here tomorrow under Yasir 'Arafat to define the necessary steps for coordination with Jordan in the coming stage.

The Jordanian Government announced its decision on terminating its development plan for the occupied territory and dissolving the development committee within the framework of the plan in implementation of the decisions adopted by the Algiers summit last month.

The Palestinian source expected a Palestinian delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, to visit Jordan soon to hold more contacts with the Jordanian Government on joint cooperation.

The visit was scheduled to take place before 'Id al-Adha, but the Jordanian Government [words indistinct] asked for postponing the visit until after the 'Id.

The Palestinian source said Abu Mazin's expected visit to Jordan is important because it will take place in the wake of the Jordanian step and because it will prepare for 'Arafat's scheduled visit to Jordan. The source said that Palestinian quarters are concerned to render the coming Jordanian - Palestinian meeting a success and will explore all roads to exploit the joint cooperation.

DFLP on 'Stillborn' Plan

JN3007131088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] A DFLP spokesman today affirmed that the Jordanian development plan was stillborn. He said:

What is demanded of Jordan is to implement the Algiers summit resolutions in a series of political steps, which emphasize that the PLO is the only representative of the Palestinian people. They should also emphasize the PLO's national responsibility toward the Palestinian people until they achieve self-determination, establish their independent state, and develop the uprising comprehensively until it ends the occupation, aborting the Shultz plan, which ignores the rights of the Palestinian people and denies the right of the PLO to represent them.

Abu Sharif on West Bank Move

JN0108113788 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, today said the Jordanian decision to disengage legal and administrative links with the occupied West Bank does not aim to sever relations between Amman and the PLO.

Bassam Abu Sharif added: The Jordanian decision is compatible with Arab summit resolutions especially the Algiers summit resolutions.

'Positive Step' Hailed

JN3007193088 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1642 GMT 30 Jul

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The PLO has often emphasized that [words indistinct] Palestinian - Jordanian relations will have special, important considerations within inter-Arab relations in view of the historical social, political, and economic bonds that link the two fraternal peoples.

The PLO has always voiced its profound, genuine eagerness to maintain these bonds. It has called and continues to call for promoting and expanding them and entrenching joint Jordanian-Palestinian action in the interests of the two fraternal peoples.

In more than one PNC session, the Palestinian national resolutions have emphasized [words indistinct] between Jordan and Palestine that cannot be broken. The Palestinian endeavors will continue to strengthen them.

On more than one occasion, the PLO has coupled this eagerness with a high sense of credibility and with the spirit of national and pan-Arab responsibility, stressing the need to establish the best relations possible based on mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs, as well as on serving joint national and pan-Arab interests.

It is now obvious that this Palestinian policy is firm not only with Jordan but with all the fraternal Arab states as well.

While pointing out all these facts, we would like to note that the new Jordanian move terminating the so-called development plan is a positive step in the right direction. This step emphasizes the fact that the Palestinian - Jordanian relationship should inevitably be based on a correct path based on sound principles.

When this relationship is enhanced by joint cooperation, it will realize the aspirations of the Palestinian and Jordanian masses by restoring the spirit of joint Palestinian-Jordanian cooperation to serve the common cause, interests, and goal.

Now that Jordan has undertaken this important, positive step, which was sincerely and warmly welcomed by the PLO, we hope it will be strengthened by further steps to open the way for restoring the official Palestinian-Jordanian relations to their natural, effective, and positive form.

We also hope due attention should be paid—and we find this extremely necessary provided intentions are good—to blocking the paths of those who would give suspect interpretations to the Jordanian move with the aim of preventing the realization of the cherished consequences. And while hoping that this will be realized, we bless Jordan's move and congratulate ourselves on this serious Arab trend toward a responsible pan-Arab approach to the Palestinian cause and people as well as to their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

Circumventing PLO 'Impossible'

JN3007194288 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1748 GMT 30 Jul 88

["Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "Palestinian-Jordanian National Interaction"]

[Text] Brothers: What is between Palestine and Jordan goes beyond the testing of intentions as well as wagers on intentions, be they good or bad. We believe what is between Palestine and Jordan is a unique form in the Arab region of intermingling and interaction involving the same interests, fate, approach, and concerns. We believe this popular Palestinian-Jordanian interaction has long been above small political sensitivities, narrow-minded calculations, and fears.

In fact, Jordan can only stand on the same ground with Palestine. Likewise, as shown in its recent statement, the Jordanian Government can only participate with the PLO in forming the political future of the Palestinian-Jordanian land. Palestine and Jordan are one and the authorities of Palestine and Jordan are one authority and there is no other choice. [sentence as heard]

As for those who fish in troubled waters or those who recall previous sensitivities or mention differences in the political relations prevailing in the region, all of them should now forget a little. We are of the opinion that the recent Jordanian steps first and foremost mean that the brothers in Amman have come closer to reality than ever before.

Hence, these brothers have recognized the facts, admitted the realities, and become aware of the fact that bypassing the Palestinian people by any party whatsoever is absolutely impossible.

Likewise, circumventing the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is absolutely impossible and no Arab party is allowed to do so no matter how great this party's sensitivity may be in this regard and also regardless of its considerations to the effect that such a situation may affect its own interests or political future.

We clearly say that if we put fears aside, then Palestine and Jordan will have no choice but to form a joint future, formulate a joint plan, and build a solid basis for a unified Palestinian-Jordanian national independence that emanates from common interests, principles, and values.

We want to see that the recent statement by the Jordanian Government has paved the way for this required joint conception and the desired structural formula. Will we jointly embark on the next steps? Will we thwart the enemy's misleading calls? Will we make a bright future for our two peoples?

'New Negative Steps' Viewed

JN3108194088 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1737 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Let us admit that yesterday we went a little bit farther than necessary in our optimism concerning Jordan's step to the effect of stopping the so-called development plan. We said, and here we were right, that this step was positive.

We had extravagant optimism when we hoped for new Jordanian steps that support the first step, in order to reformulate Palestinian-Jordanian relations on new basaes, firm in their clarity and aim.

We, of course, mean [words indistinct] by virtue of the depth of their historic, social, political, economic, and cultural associations. Not only this, but also by virtue of the one destiny, goal, and interest, and the one future awaiting the two brotherly people as one unified people. [Words indistinct]

Anyway, despite our optimism, with which we went a little far of course for objective reasons [words indistinct]. Brothers in Jordan did not give us much time. After less than 24 hours, Jordan declared new steps within its new policy toward the Palestinian cause.

These new steps came to bitterly destroy the positiveness and optimism of the first step. They came attempting an arbitrary separation between the two brotherly peoples, the Jordanian-Palestinians, through strange measures that can hardly be explained as an independent Jordanian political action.

As long as news coming from Amman that there are various introductions for arbitrary separations of the one citizenship and stripping (?our people) in Jordan from their acquired rights [words indistinct] their right to maintain and keep them, and within our analytical review of this news, we were saying that, virtually, the Jordanian Government must weigh reason over no reason, logic over no logic, and its interests over those of others.

But, regrettably, before these new negative steps by the Jordanian Government, it has become clear that alienating the mind has triumphed and that the narrow factional and regional feelings [words indistinct].

We say, all this [words indistinct] Jordan has been boasting, from the beginning, that it built the strongest, firmest, and most important unity in the Arab region. What will Jordan boast? Will it boast the fact that it destroyed the strongest, firmest, and most important unity in the Arab region?

We say we were not surprised by the reality of the matter. We know and realize very well that these are attempts of the rivals at the last quarter of the hour, in the last meter, before we wrest our great victory.

We know and realize very well that there is primarily a U.S. decision that the heroic uprising of our people must be aborted. Attempts against this uprising, from all the rivals, have been reiterated.

First, the uprising was attacked by all means, but it became stronger, firmer, more effective, and more farsighted. The leadership of the uprising, secondly, was attacked through the killing of its most outstanding symbol, the great leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], but the uprising deepened, and its field leaderships performed extremely well in every quarter, city, village, and camp.

The uprising was also hit when the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps were destroyed at the hands of the Syrian regime's forces. But it continued, firmed, and diversified its ways of struggle.

Now comes the turn of political and economic strikes, through steps that cannot be explained otherwise. These steps perform their shameful task. We are still talking within the framework of reservation and (?care) for the relations between the brotherly Palestinian and Jordanian people and for the relations between Palestine and Jordan and their unified political future, which is as unbreakable as the uprising of our people despite all attacks against it or against our people everywhere.

PLO's Khalaf Condemns Plan To Move U.S. Embassy

JN2907165888 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Brother Salah Khalaf [Abu Iyad], member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee, has described the decision the U.S. Congress made yesterday to move the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem as the most serious and hostile U.S. decision against the Palestinians' rights and the Arab nation.

In a press statement published in the UAE today, Khalaf said this serious decision requires a strong Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic position, pointing out this step is part of the U.S. hostility toward the Arab nation in general and the Palestinian people in particular.

PLO Executive Committee Meets in Baghdad

JN3107170488 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a meeting in Baghdad last night under Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestine Revolution Forces. The Committee discussed ways to support the popular Palestinian revolution in the occupied territories, the continuation of this revolution, the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, and developments in the Palestinian question in Arab and international arenas.

The first session of the Palestinian Central Council, under PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, ended in Baghdad this afternoon.

Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, presented a detailed report during the session on the developments of the gigantic popular revolution in the occupied territories and ways to support, escalate, and protect it from the dangers threatening it.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also talked in his reports about the economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza and ways to implement a number of measures in this regard.

Chad

2,000 Opposition Troops Reported in Sudan
AB3107084388 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 0630 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Sudanese Defense Minister 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil has announced that a 2,000-strong contingent of forces opposed to Chadian President Habre's regime has infiltrated into the western region of Sudan from Libya. The minister disclosed that the Sudanese troops last Thursday, 28 July, intercepted seven armed men in the Darfur Region. The seven said they were leaders of the contingent and confirmed that 2,000 men had penetrated into Sudan.

Mr Khalil specified that early reports on the infiltration had come from the Sudanese ambassador to Libya who said the 2,000 men were former members of the movement led by Acheikh ibn Oumar against whom they had rebelled. The Sudanese press and foreign diplomats have often reported that Mr Acheikh's units were still in the Darfur Region from where they staged attacks against Chadian positions on the other side of the border.

Ordered Disarmed
AB0808084488 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 0630 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The Sudanese Army has been ordered to intercept and disarm the 2,000-man contingent of Chadian rebels that infiltrated from Libya into the Darfur Region on the border with Chad. The order was issued 2 days ago by Sudanese Defense Minister 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil.

I see no reason for their presence in that region other than to stage an attack against Chad, a Western diplomat stated in Khartoum yesterday, specifying that the rebels had heavy weapons and were supported by armored troop carriers.

Mr Khal has indicated that the Sudanese ambassador to Tripoli had approached the Libyan authorities about the illegal entry of new GUNT leader Acheikh ibn Oumar's troops into Sudanese territory.

According to the Sudanese minister, Mr Acheikh told the ambassador that the men who infiltrated into Sudan had rebelled against him. Still, according to the minister, the Army has been ordered to disarm the rebels and treat them temporarily as refugees pending a political decision on their fates.

Mr Khalil further said that Sudanese units last Friday, 29 July, intercepted in the Darfur Region seven men who claimed to be the leaders of the rebel contingent. The men stated that they had penetrated Sudan because Acheikh ibn Oumar had been arrested by the Libyans. [passage omitted]

Egypt

U.S. Diplomat Involved in 'Suspect' Activity
PM0108134388 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jul 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "New Secrets in the Case of the Smuggling of Radioactive Material From Washington: U.S. Intelligence 'Fabricated' the Case"]

[Text] AL-SHA'B today reveals a new U.S. intelligence scandal: A responsible security source confirmed that the arrest of an Egyptian scientist on a charge of attempting to smuggle radioactive material to Egypt was carried out after a high-level security quarter in Egypt submitted an urgent and serious report to the political leadership on suspect activities carried out by a prominent U.S. diplomat in Egypt.

The report confirmed that the U.S. diplomat, who worked in Syria for 7 years, was making suspicious movements in the country and tried to recruit some prominent figures in Egypt to work for the CIA.

The responsible source said that the high-level security quarter, who is tasked with monitoring foreign activities and special operations, was able to watch all the U.S. diplomat's movements, both inside the country and abroad.

AL-SHA'B has learned that President Mubarak intended to summon U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner to inform him of the suspect activities and movements of the U.S. diplomat, but the United States rushed to carry out a feeble theatrical stunt involving the Egyptian scientist to cover up the position of the U.S. diplomat in Cairo.

Abu Ghazalah Returns From Baghdad 31 Jul
NC3107095388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, returned to Cairo from Baghdad this morning at the end of a short visit to Iraq.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah met during this visit with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and handed him a message from President Husni Mubarak. He also received a reply from the Iraqi president to President Mubarak. The field marshal met with Iraqi Defense Minister Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah and a number of Iraqi Armed Forces officers. Discussions dealt with strengthening Egyptian-Iraqi cooperation in the military and war industries fields.

Sidqi Delegation Returns From Jordan

NC0108043488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and his accompanying delegation returned to Cairo from Amman this evening after a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he led the Egyptian delegation to the eighth session of Egyptian-Jordanian higher committee which concluded its meetings in Amman earlier today.

Upon his arrival, Dr Sidqi said that he had brought a message with him from King Husayn for his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations and important international issues.

In his statement, the prime minister emphasized that the atmosphere which prevailed during the Egyptian-Jordanian talks was extremely healthy. He indicated that a spirit of fraternity existed between the two sides, both of which sought the interests of both countries, irrespective of whether the discussions took place in Egypt or Jordan.

The prime minister confirmed in this respect that the spirit prevailing among the members of the higher joint committee during the discussion on Egyptians working in Jordan was very good, and, he added, it can be said very reassuringly that the treatment accorded the Egyptian workers in Jordan has been excellent and that the problems that have arisen have been limited.

He said that there are no general problems any more, only individual ones. He affirmed that the Jordanian authorities have promised to study any problems that might come up.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi said in his statement that during the joint meeting today an agreement was reached to set up an Egyptian-Jordanian consular committee that will solve the problems involving the Egyptians in Jordan or the Jordanians working in Egypt or the citizens of the one country who have interests in the other.

Sidqi said that the two countries also signed an equitable [trade] agreement today amounting to approximately 58 million pounds. The deal, which involves the exchange of a group of commodities, complements the former deals which are being carried out.

He added that documents pertaining to the trade protocol which was signed approximately 1 month ago and which amounts to $250 million were exchanged today. He said that this constitutes a fine achievement in trade exchange and overcomes many obstacles and different views of the past years, especially last year. He expressed hope that this understanding will be in the interest of the two fraternal countries.

'Abd al-Majid Supports Nuclear-Free Zones

AU2907193588 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 28 Jul 88 p 6

[Andreas Fleischer report from Cairo: "Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid on Egypt's Target: To Keep Middle East Free From Nuclear Weapons; Comprehensive Solution to Conflict in the Region Necessary"]

[Text] Completely in accordance with the Berlin meeting, Egypt supports every international effort aimed at extending the scope of nuclear-free zones. This was stated by Dr Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, during a talk with NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in Cairo. He affirmed that his country's policy is aimed at promoting peace and international security in all parts of the world.

Egypt is especially interested in establishing a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, the politician emphasized. "Egypt signed the Nonproliferation Treaty. Our country appeals to all states of the region to renounce the production and acquisition of these weapons, to immediately sign and ratify the Nonproliferation Treaty, as well as to accept an international inspection of their nuclear facilities," Dr 'Abd al-Majid said.

The creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East cannot be separated from the problems existing in the region, he stressed. Therefore, Egypt will not stop looking seriously for a permanent and comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict.

"Regardless of the obstacles that might oppose our efforts—the hard line of the Israeli Government policy and especially Israel's oppressive measures in the occupied Arab territories—nothing will prevent us from it. Together with all peace-loving forces in the world and all states that are interested in implementing security and stability in the region, we will continue our efforts to achieve a just regulation," the Egyptian foreign minister confirmed.

In Egypt's opinion, Israel has to realize "that it is impossible to occupy foreign territory and have peace at the same time. Its continued occupation of Arab territories and its suppression of the Arab population have confirmed the failure of this policy. The path toward peace consists of implementing the principle of exchanging soil for peace, as well as implementing UN Resolutions 242 and 338," Dr 'Abd al-Majid emphasized.

This has to take place by means of negotiations and within the framework of the United Nations. The five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all parties immediately involved in the conflict, among them the PLO, "as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the only party that is entitled to act as the Palestinian negotiating partner in such negotiations," should participate.

'Abd al-Majid on Support for UN Peace Efforts

NC2907144688 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt supports UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's current efforts and consultations with the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers to end the Gulf war.

In a statement to a Cairo radio correspondent, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 as an indivisible whole. He said that the permanent members of the UN Security Council are eager to work for the implementation of that resolution.

In another development, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stated that Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state, will arrive in Cairo during the 1st week of August. His visit will be part of a tour of the region, following a meeting with his Soviet counterpart. He will brief the leaders of the region on the latest developments in the peace process, 'Abd al-Majid added.

Tabah Talks, Egypt's 'Firm Stand' Discussed

NC3107111988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, head of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department, has said that the tripartite talks in Cairo on 9 August among Egypt, the United States, and Israel on the Tabah issue will be held on the basis of a U.S. proposal supported by Israel and accepted by Egypt.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Ambassador Mahir said that Egypt will listen to the Israeli view and judge it in light of Egypt's firm stand, namely stressing Egypt's full sovereignty over Tabah and its desire to retrieve all Egyptian territories, including Tabah.

He added that Egypt will not accept any bargaining or procrastination on this issue. He said: We have participated in arbitration from a position of strength, confident of our indisputable right. In light of proceedings before the arbitration panel, during the presentation of memorandums and oral arguments, we are now in a stronger position and more confident, he said.

Ambassador Mahir said: Arbitration remains a means to an end, and to reach this end we have no objection to exploring all roads.

Responding to a question about the arrangements Egypt might accept in return for restoration of its full sovereignty, the head of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department said that Egypt's willingness to study such arrangements within the framework of encouraging tourism depends on a number of considerations. He added that these arrangements must be in line with Egypt's sovereignty, must not involve any infringement or semi-infringement on this sovereignty, must be in line with Egyptian laws and the requirements of Egypt's internal and external security, and must be practical and viable, without the potential for problems during application which would defeat their purpose.

He added: These arrangements should not favor anyone, because they aim to encourage tourism in general and fall within the framework of the policies laid down by the Egyptian Government in accordance with its constitutional system, whether with regard to entry and exit rules, investments, or the building and management of hotels.

Concluding, Ambassador Mahir stressed that these contacts and talks do not affect the process of arbitration, procedures for which are continuing along the established course leading to the arbitration decision on 29 September.

Official Leaves on 3-Day Visit to Nigeria

NC3107112788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Ambassador Nabil al-Salawi, head of the Foreign Ministry's African Department, left Cairo for Lagos this afternoon for a 3-day visit to Nigeria, during which he will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to President Ibrahim Babangida.

Djibouti Foreign Minister Ends Visit, Departs

NC0108124088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—Djibouti Foreign Minister Moumin Farah left Cairo this afternoon at the conclusion of a 10-day visit to Egypt.

During his visit, the Djibouti foreign minister held talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on ways of promoting bilateral relations.

Qadri Fathi, counselor at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department, saw the Djibouti foreign minister off at Cairo Airport.

'Biggest Ever' Drug Smuggling Attempt Foiled

NC2907172588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—The Interior Ministry's anti-drugs department has foiled the biggest ever attempt to smuggle narcotics into the country via the territorial waters of the Gulf of Suez. The narcotics squad has managed to catch the most dangerous international gang of drug smugglers. Thirteen members of the gang have been caught in the act of smuggling 3.687

tons of opium, 1.622 tons of hashish, and 289 kg of heroin, valued at 300 million Egyptian pounds. The prosecution has issued an order placing the defendants in custody for 45 days, pending investigation. [passage omitted]

The anti-drugs department had earlier received information to the effect that certain Lebanese drug producers were establishing channels of cooperation with some drug smugglers in the Golden Crescent region in southwest Asia (Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran). Because of the surplus of illegally produced opium and its low price in that region, they limited their activity to the production and smuggling of opium to meet world demand and supply certain Western countries with the opium needed for the manufacture of heroin.

In December 1987, the first lead was picked up and certain members of the network were identified. Continuous investigation and secret surveillance unveiled a network whose members included Husayn al-Haj 'Ali Barru, alias Abu Nasif, a Lebanese; Muhammad Karim 'Abd al-Rahim Ballush, alias Arbab, a Pakistani; Ibrahim Fahim Muhammad Husaynayn, alias Abu Ra'id, a Palestinian; Husayn Hilmi Husayn al-Bitar, alias Abu Nasir, an Israeli; and Kayid Muhammad Husayn Barru, an American citizen of Lebanese origin.

Investigations revealed that the network had chosen Cairo as a center for managing and carrying out its operations. This made it easy for the anti-drugs department to place the members of the network under surveillance. For 8 months their moves and communications were monitored with the latest scientific equipment, within the framework of the law.

According to the department's information, the network arranged for part of a huge shipment of opium, hashish, and heroin to be smuggled to Egypt from Pakistan, and for the rest to be shipped to Israeli borders on board a vessel called "Reef Star," which flies the flag of the Caribbean state of St Vincent, having reached agreement with its captain Hamidu Muhammad Ahmad, a Sudanese. The Prosecutor's Office issued a warrant, the vessel was caught, and the shipment was confiscated. [passage omitted]

The members of the gang had agreed to approach a certain point on the Pakistani coast to pick up the shipment from a Pakistani launch and transport it to the Red Sea. The part of the shipment destined for Egypt was supposed to be delivered in the Al-'Ayn al-Sukhnah area, at the entrance to the port of Suez. The rest of the consignment would be shipped to the Gulf of Aqaba to be delivered to the gang's associates, who were supposed to smuggle it to the Israeli borders, and then to certain countries in Europe and America. Part of the opium had been prepared for shipping to Syria, to be processed into heroin in secret laboratories in Aleppo. [passage omitted]

The Prosecutor's Office had been informed of what was going on and it embarked on secret investigations in the Gulf of Suez on 20 July. A permit was obtained banning publication of any information about the case until the leaders of the network had arrived in Cairo to stay in one of its five-star hotels. The three leaders were later apprehended. They are: Muhammad Karim 'Abd al-Rahim Ballush, a Pakistani; Shafiq Yusuf Rahman, a Lebanese; and 'Ali Muhammad Husayn, a Lebanese. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views Israeli 'Maneuvers' on Arms

JN3007181088 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
28 Jul 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Israeli Maneuvers"]

[Text] Israel has created what can be called a planned clamor regarding Arab armament. Recently, Arab armament has witnessed "the deal of the century" between Saudi Arabia and Britain. Being responsible in the first place, through the Zionist lobby's influence on Congress, for wasting the opportunity of a lifetime to supply Arabs with U.S. arms, Israel is expected to try to hide its own stand and compensate for its bad effect on the U.S. economy by evoking once again a shift in the balance of power in favor of the Arabs after the Iraq-Iran war ends.

Israel has begun to talk cautiously about such a shift. Israeli officials, led by Peres, have begun to issue alarming calls. Meanwhile, other less alarming calls were issued ruling out Iraq's posing a danger to Israel in the next years despite the fact that Iraq has attained high levels of armament and combat experience. War Minister Rabin himself led those who mentioned the latter remarks.

But since the huge Saudi-British deal was concluded prior to a cease-fire on the Iraqi-Iranian warfront and also since the British justifications for the deal were to help Saudi Arabia against the Iranian threat and not against Israel, Tel Aviv is expected to take advantage of this change in the [military] field by stressing the soundness of its initial stand, that is, the West's providing Arabs with arms poses a danger to Israel, especially since the justifications regarding the Iranian threat have almost vanished.

Accordingly, Israel may once again evoke the U.S.-Kuwaiti arms deal and actively work to obstruct it in Congress along with any other future arms deal with Arabs. Also from this premise, Israel may demand that it be supplied with as many arms as possible and that Arabs be derived of any U.S. armament. Israel may also double its efforts and interfere on the world level to prevent any non-U.S. source from supplying Arabs with arms. Afterward, Israel may revive a line it reiterated for years to the effect that a collective Arab power, following the promotion of the Arab arsenal, has become more dangerous to Israel than ever before should a military truce be attained.

This renewed Israeli stand implies other things. Besides giving the utmost propagandistic exploitation to this stand in both the U.S. and Israeli election campaigns, there is also a genuine threat posed by the growing tendency in Israel to resort to arms to carry out planned preemptive strikes. Such strikes may serve a number of objectives. Among these objectives are forestalling the expected Arab gathering, reinstating fear of Israeli strength, and prompting the world to believe that Israel is in a real dilemma and thus it needs further aid.

The objectives of preemptive strikes also include removing the diplomatic siege imposed on Israel to oblige it to hold negotiations within frameworks Israel does not like and also addressing a practical message to those participating in the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza to the effect that Israel is still a great power.

Effects of 'Uprising' on Israeli Politics Seen

NC3107045088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that the heroic Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories is increasingly leaving its marks on the features of political life in Israel 3 months before the general elections.

In its editorial to be published tomorrow, Sunday, the paper adds that these marks can be identified in three major spheres. The first is the continuing Palestinian uprising and the increasing Israeli conviction that resisting or quelling the uprising is not as easy as the Israeli officials had earlier told their people it would be. The second is the increase in the number of Israelis who oppose the continuing occupation and who advocate negotiations with the Arabs and the Palestinians on the basis of land in exchange for peace.

The third element, the paper adds, is the continuing rift within the Israeli Government and the exchange of accusations between the Likud and the Labor Parties, to such an extent that it has become extremely difficult to discern an official policy with respect to the future of the occupied territories.

Concluding its editorial, the paper expresses its belief that the upcoming elections in Israel will most probably bring forth representatives who are capable of drawing a new Israeli policy whose features will to a great extent be sketched by the Palestinian uprising.

Implementation of UN Resolution 242 Urged

NC3107212188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses its hope that UN Security Council Resolution 242 on the Middle East, which was issued 21 years ago, will be implemented, especially now that Iran has accepted Resolution 598 1 year after it was issued.

In its commentary on Monday, AL-JUMHURIYAH states that major powers in the Security Council have hampered the implementation of Resolution 242 all this time and have aided Israel in its rejection of it and in its obstinacy and fanaticism. It adds that these powers continue to proceed in this direction in more than one form.

The paper says that instead of employing their influence to pressure Israel to yield to the will of peace that expresses the desire of the entire world, these powers have taken the completely opposite path by vetoing the resolutions that have condemned Israel's suppressive and racist practices.

The paper concludes its commentary by alluding to the positive role the UN Security Council and the United Nations can play in convening an international peace conference, which the entire world has agreed is the way to a fair and comprehensive solution to the conflict in the Middle East.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader Interviewed

PM2907154588 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 27 Jul-3 Aug 88 p 11

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Hamid Abu al-Nasr by Mahmud 'Abdallah in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] ['Abdallah] The [Muslim] Brotherhood deputies are accused of appeasing the government and avoiding collision with it despite the fact that so far they have not secured any political achievement in favor of the Islamic movement. What is the justification for that?

[Abu al-Nasr] The position of the Brotherhood in parliament has not and will not change. It supports justice and with all its might it fights injustice and everything that is harmful. What conceals its ability and efficiency is the ruling party which has a majority and control of the media and tries to portray itself as reformer of the country. That party places every possible obstacle in the Brotherhood's way in an attempt to blot out our position. We have not appeased the government and we have not failed. In the end only what is right prevails.

['Abdallah] The Brotherhood in Egypt is accused of having abandoned the other Islamic groups and left them to face the blows while the Brotherhood deputies enjoyed their seats in parliament. What do you think of these charges?

[Abu al-Nasr] The Islamic groups emerged in the absence of the Brotherhood whose members were in detention camps and prison dungeons at the time. They emerged lacking the guidance and leadership that could show them the right path. Some of them fell into the trap of haste and rashness. These young people are in dire need of someone who would hold a dialogue with them and discuss their behavior.

Only through reason can difficulties be overcome. Firmness and violence only breed grudges and hatred. We have not enjoyed the parliamentary seats. We struggled to get to these seats to raise the banner of Islam.

['Abdallah] It has been said that the support of the Brotherhood's deputies in parliament for President Mubarak's reelection to a second presidential term was part of a deal with the government in return for legitimizing the group.

[Abu al-Nasr] I assure you that there was no agreement or even contact between us and any official or unofficial side, and there was no talk of what we would get for supporting reelection of President Husni Mubarak. The reasons why we took that position were announced in parliament. There is no secret or agreement. The aim of what is being said is to smear the image of the group.

['Abdallah] What if the group does not get legitimacy? Would it continue to operate within the framework of one of the parties?

[Abu al-Nasr] There is a 10-year-old case seeking the return of the group but the courts have not issued a verdict yet. When the Brotherhood became an effective factor in the political, social, and economic fields, it was necessary to find a legal channel of operation. That is why the Brotherhood decided to form a political party and they are in the process of drafting a special program for such a party to be submitted to the parties committee to get a license for the party.

['Abdallah] According to official and security reports, the extremist groups do not pose a threat to the Egyptian regime at present. To what extent do your information and analysis agree with these reports?

[Abu al-Nasr] There can be no doubt that the Islamic movement in Egypt poses a serious threat to the enemies of Islam who in the past subjected some Egyptian people to all kinds of torture. What is happening now is an inevitable result of the past. Egyptians are religious by nature. Religious faith revives and lifts people. The corruption that came to us, sometimes from the East while other times from the West, came from sides not governed by creed or religion.

['Abdallah] Why has the [Muslim Brotherhood] group not given an opinion regarding the "Egypt's Revolution" case so far?

[Abu al-Nasr] What has been published about the case is no more than press talk and it would not be wise of us to express an opinion before knowing the facts. We, therefore, await the verdict of the judiciary.

['Abdallah] Why don't the groups settle their political differences with the other forces to form a united front against the ruling party?

[Abu al-Nasr] The differences between the Brotherhood and certain political forces and parties are essential differences over policy. The Brotherhood's policy is based on the principles of Islam while the policies of some of these parties are based on the dialectical Marxist philosophy.

['Abdallah] Did the group help strengthen the investment companies to secure funds for its political activity?

[Abu al-Nasr] I state frankly that the Brotherhood has nothing to do with the activities or policies of these companies nor with the ways they seek to achieve their objectives. The campaign launched against these companies was and is still engineered by those who fight all Islamic trends in the Middle East. Everyone knows who stands to benefit from the attack on the Islamic companies.

['Abdallah] When do you expect to meet with President Husni Mubarak?

[Abu al-Nasr] That is up to the president.

Briefs

Israeli Envoy to Cairo

Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—New Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Shim'on Shamir arrived in Cairo this evening to assume his post. [Text] [*NC3107202388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 31 Jul 88*]

Libya

Tripoli Mediating Between Iran, 'Arab Country'

LD3107095588 Kuwait KUNA in English 0919 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 31 (KUNA)—Libya currently is mediating between an Arab country and Iran to restore severed diplomatic ties following Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council [Resolution] 598, press reports said here Sunday.

Daily AL-ITTIHAD quoted Arab diplomatic sources in Rabat as saying that Libya in the few past days made contacts with Tehran and an Arab capital that revealed Iran's openness to improve relations with Arab countries that had broken relations with it.

The sources also expected that the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will pay a visit to Tehran next month that will be preceded by trip to Tripoli by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at [the] conclusion of current [talks] in [the] United Nations.

Meanwhile, the Libyan Ambassador to Morocco Muhammad al-Zuwwi said that Libyan envoys will carry messages from the Libyan leader to Arab leaders urging them to reply to his unity project which he proposed during the Algiers Arab summit last June.

Al-Zuwwi, in statements published by the same daily, said that these messages were sent as a result of new developments in the Arab world such as the Palestinian people's uprising and American-Israeli coordination to quell it, pointing out that Al-Qadhdhafi is expecting answers to his messages by September.

The Libyan official explained that his project stipulates creating Arab joint economic establishments that do not contradict with regional bodies such as Gulf Cooperation Council and great Maghreb plans.

He noted that a preparatory committee will be formed soon in Libya to receive replies and to take practical steps to ensure success of the project.

Statement Issued on U.S.-Qatari Military Ties

LD2907130088 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Jul (JANA)—The General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has issued a statement about the U.S. Administration's decision concerning the halting of military and economic cooperation with Qatar. The text of the statement follows:

The U.S. Administration has made a decision according to which it has stopped military and economic cooperation with Qatar for an unspecified period. It has also stopped military and economic negotiations with Qatar to protest its acquisition of Stinger missiles without U.S. permission.

The General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, noting the U.S. Administration's campaign of political blackmail and pressure against Qatar, emphasizes the stance of the Great Jamahiriyah as follows:

1. The Great Jamahiriyah condemns the aggressive U.S. stance toward Qatar, and supports the latter in its rejection of the U.S. Administration's economic pressures, which aim at compelling Qatar to abandon its national will and sovereignty. The Great Jamahiriyah calls upon Arabs not to leave Qatar to [words indistinct] the U.S. policy of blackmail and pressures: Qatar should not become the victim of its stances.

2. The aggressive U.S. stance toward Qatar confirms the correctness of the Great Jamahiriyah's perspective of Arab-U.S. relations. The Great Jamahiriyah is of the opinion that the Arab states are required to stress and protect their pan-Arab and local interests vis-a-vis the United States by terminating their political, military, and economic relations with it, as this is the only policy which can deter the U.S. Administration and ensure pan-Arab interests.

3. The United States alone is responsible for the proliferation and sale of Stinger missiles throughout the world. Missiles are found not only in Qatar. The United States is responsible for their sale to [words indistinct] Asia, giving them as gifts in support of reactionary forces in Africa, for the sake of which the United States pursues a policy characterised by hypocrisy and blackmail [remains of sentence indistinct].

4. The stance pursued by the United States toward Qatar clearly reveals the real enemy of the Arab motherland. Despite all the excuses with which the United States is trying to conceal its hostile positions toward the Arabs, and its total bias toward the Israeli enemy, the United States remains politically, morally, and legally responsible at the international level for the fascist, dictatorial, and reactionary regimes in the world.

U.S. (?policy) is most clearly defined by its hostility to the Arabs, its strategic alliance with the Israeli enemy, and its threat to Arab national security through the provision of advanced weapons, long-range missiles, nuclear bombs, and technical knowhow to the Israeli enemy. This enables Israel to control the area, threaten the security of the Arab motherland, and destroy its existence.

Heads of State Praise Release of Prisoners

LD3107183388 Tripoli JANA in English 1745 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir 31 [31 July], JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the sisterly Republic of Tunisia expressed his great pleasure at the great historic action by the leader of the revolution demolishing prisons, liberating prisoners. This came in a letter sent by President Ben Ali to the leader of the revolution.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali said in his letter "It is a good occasion to express to you the satisfaction and appreciation for the noble efforts you are exerting towards the renaissance of the Libyan Arab individual and the enhancement of his status which will have its effects to those who are seeking the progress of our Arab nation and bolstering its immunity."

President Zine El Abidine reaffirmed his adherence to the continuation of the principles of the 7th November in Tunisia and setting a society based on justice and enjoyment of democracy, pointing out that since that date the scope of liberties was enlarged and enhanced, granting amnesty on many prisoners and removing unjustice in accordance with the belief in the fundamental status of the individual and safeguarding his dignity and fundamental rights.

The letter asserted "What we are aspiring to is the joining of our efforts for the good and progress of the Arab citizen in Tunisia and Libya and success and prosperity for the whole of our Arab nation."

Furthermore, the great historic action by the leader of the revolution demolishing prisons and releasing prisoners was subject of the lauding and hailing by a number of heads of state.

The president of the Republic of Sri Lanka expressed, during his reception of the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau to Sri Lanka who delivered to him a letter from the leader, his appreciation of this historic action and the great green document of human rights in the era of the masses.

The president of Sri Lanka requested the secretary to convey his greetings and appreciation to the leader of the revolution and that he is in the process of releasing more prisoners in Sri Lanka.

The president of Afghanistan asserted, in a letter to the leader in reply to the one the leader had sent to him on the occasion of the release of a number of prisoners in Afghanistan, the will to carry on on the path of consolidating the freedom of the individual and the provision of the appropriate atmosphere for just life for the people of Afghanistan and the continuation of national reconciliation declared during the announcement of amnesty on political prisoners, the right to work and the freedom of movement inside and outside Afghanistan.

The president of the Republic of South Korea, on his part, expressed his high appreciation of the civilized achievements realised by the Libyan Arab people along the path of dignity and progress thanks to the great al Fatah revolution.

In a letter to the leader of the revolution the president of South Korea said "I would like to express my high appreciation to the efforts you are exerting towards this end, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my wish that your great country shall continue realising progress under your distinguished leadership."

Three Navy Ships Visit Turkish Port

LD3007230288 Tripoli JANA in English 1623 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir 30 [30 July] JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—Three naval vessels from the Libyan Arab Navy paid a visit to the Turkish port of Izmir.

The vessels were warmly welcomed by Turkish naval officials and local authorities.

Briefs

Muraghah Message

The brother leader of the revolution has received 'Id al-Adha greetings from Brother Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Musaghah], secretary of the provisional leadership of the Palestine Liberation Movement, Fatah. In his greetings, Brother Abu Musa praised the stances of the brother leader and guide toward the massive popular revolution led by the generation of anger in occupied Palestine through its peoples' committees. He also praised the continuing efforts of the brother leader and guide in support of the revolution of the Palestine Arab people against the Zionist barbarians. Brother Abu Musa hailed the principled positions of the people of the Great Jamahiriyah and its leader toward our Arab homeland's issues of destiny. [Text] [*LD2907011688 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jul 88*]

Sudan

Paper, Minister Cited on 'Crisis' With Iraq

JN3007105388 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, July 30 SUNA—The Sudanese Supreme Council is currently preparing a message to the Iraqi Governemnt in a bid to combat the crisis [that] resulted from the Sudanese Government's statement concerning the assassination of the Iraqi opposition leader Mahdi al-Hakim in Khartoum last January and to avoid any deterioration in the two countries' relations, the daily AL-NAHAR reported today.

On the other hand, culture and information minister and government spokesman 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad has affirmed that the Iraqi ambassador to Khartoum, Tariq Muhammad Yahya, has left Sudan suddenly without informing the Sudanese Government officially.

The spokesman affirmed Sudan's refusal to the Iraqi accusations that Sudan issues its decision according to foreign intervention, indicating that such accusations will be strongly faced by Sudan if repeated.

The spokesman disclosed that the Sudanese Council of Ministers delegated the foreign minister to inform the Iraqi ambassador by the content of the said statement and that the ambassador try to alleviate the language of the statement but he did not refuse its content.

Defense Minister on South, Foreign Relations

JN2907144688 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 22 Jul 88 pp 18-20

[Interview with Defense Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sa'id] Are you confident that Garang has a definite desire to attend a peace conference to solve the southern Sudan problem without any preconditions, or was the call he issued 2 months ago a mere maneuver and procrastination?

[Khalil] With all Sudanese unity and national feelings, we hope that Garang's call, in which he said he was prepared to attend a peace conference and hold a dialogue with the Sudanese Government without any preconditions, is an honest and real one.

It is true that experience has shown us that nothing resulted in the past 3 years, and even before then—since the response to the speech of Al-Jazuli Daf'allah, prime minister of the transitional government. The same case happened after Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi presented a number of initiatives.

Yet, we hope that Garang's intentions are honest now. In the past, Garang justified his rejection of peace on the basis that the transitional government was an extension of the late regime and of former president Numayri.

Now the situation is different, especially since the elections were conducted wihout any faults. No one has objected to the elections, and they did not witness any fraud or rigging. For this reason, it was hoped that John Garang will be the first to desire dialogue and solve the southern Sudan prolem.

Regrettably, until now, and despite the fact that we are in the 3d year of the elected government, he did not convey his declared initiative to the government through legitimate channels. He was content to announce his initiative through the media. The government is responsible for dialogue, discussion, and achieving a resolution on the southern Sudan subject. It is futile to approach organs that are distant from the government. This is like an anti-sound bomb that has no sound and no echo.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this imply that he is not serious?

[Khalil] A reading of the events suggests this. Yet, we hope that what he presented lately constitutes a real and honest desire for dialogue.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you feel that circumstances now push toward a peaceful democratic solution to the southern Sudan problem, and that there is now a conviction that war will not achieve any results and that it has no winner or loser?

[Khalil] Yes, there is a conviction now that the peaceful, political, and Sudanese solution is the basis for any settlement in the southern Sudan and for any solution of the inherited problems, foremost of which are existing contradictions, development and economic problems, and the cultural diversity problem.

All these problems can be resolved. The solution comes through negotiations and conviction by each side that there must be a satisfactory solution so that each side gets its rights.

However, suppose that this does not happen and a settlement cannot be achieved. Then, the government has one main duty; that is, to deter rebels through the Armed Forces so that the region is secured and stability prevails.

The citizens of southern Sudan go to the north and not to John Garang. This would not have happened if the citizen in the south did not have a feeling of security in the north. There is not any sort of division in Sudan.

The government wants Garang to negotiate quickly. We are ready, and the National Constitutional Conference has been prepared for. All demands of the rebel movement can be discussed at that conference.

[Al-Sa'id] There are some who feel that the southern Sudan problem will be solved. One of the contributing factors is that Garang's movement has become weary and has been deprived of its political content. That is to say, the movement began an era of disintegration, collapse, and division. This might push it to seek a solution.

[Khalil] As I said. We hope that Garang is honest in his call and that he will negotiate with the government without preconditions, just as he promised.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the current situation in southern Sudan, and are you really tightening your military control?

[Khalil] Yes. The Armed Forces are in full control of the cities and the roads. We also have the military readiness that enables us to have complete stability through negotiations in the national constitutional conference.

[Al-Sa'id] Is it possible to trade the Eritrean problem for the southern Sudan problem? What is the situation now in light of the Sudanese-Ethiopian contacts, particularly as it has been reported that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has put forward a view for a comprehensive and democratic solution to the southern Sudan problem?

[Khalil] We will not trade one problem for another. However, at a time when Sudan is trying to find a peaceful and democratic solution to the southern Sudan problem, we are seeking to achieve a peaceful and democratic solution to the Eritrean problem.

The prime minister has in fact proposed a plan for a peaceful and democratic solution to the southern Sudan problem to President Mengistu Haile Mariam, and at the same time asked President Mengistu to put forward a peaceful and democratic view toward the Eritrean problem, but he has not yet answered.

On our part we are trying, but the other side has not yet proposed anything. Unless the sides concerned make an effort to find a solution, the situation will unfortunately remain unresolved.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the meeting between the Sudanese and Ethiopian foreign ministers which was reportedly to be held this month to draw up solutions to the Eritrean and southern Sudan problems?

[Khalil] According to the agreement reached, joint committees from the two countries were supposed to meet. The Sudanese side has carried out all its obligations, and is looking forward to the Ethiopian side fulfilling its obligations.

A meeting between the Sudanese and Ethiopian foreign ministers is scheduled, but it has not yet been held. I believe our foreign minister has drawn attention to the need to hold the meeting, but I do not know when it will be held.

[Al-Sa'id] Can one say that relations between Sudan and Ethiopia have improved in a manner that they could now constitute a factor for genuine and strong pressure on the rebel movement in southern Sudan?

[Khalil] I believe relations are now steadily progressing and improving. Perhaps it is that which prompts Garang to turn to another haven. Regrettably, that haven is represented by our friends in Kenya.

We have warned against this—that is not a hostile approach but a genuine approach that exposes a stand which we never imagined our brothers in Kenya or President Arap Moi, a friend of Sudan, would adopt. We believe he will not spare any effort to improve his relations with us with the necessary speed.

On the other hand, the issue has demonstrated the tangible improvement in relations between Sudan and Ethiopia, an improvement that had a great effect on emasculating the rebel movement in eastern Sudan, the Upper Nile, and Bahr al-Ghazal and to its recent attempt to concentrate its forces on the Kenyan-Ugandan border. Garang's taking refuge in Kenya is a sign of the improvement in Sudanese-Ethiopian relations.

[Al-Sa'id] What is the current situation with Libya? Are there still Libyan forces in Sudan on the border with Chad?

Do you believe Libya is serious about Al-Qadhdhafi's recent assertion of his sincere desire to hold a peaceful dialogue with Chad?

[Khalil] With regard to the first part of the question, there are no Libyan forces in Sudan. Libya withdrew its forces when Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi asked it to do so. Indeed, the Libyan forces were not in Sudan when the elected government was in office, but they were in Sudan when the provisional government was in office.

Now I say it openly: There are absolutely no Libyan forces in Sudan. I myself have gone to Darfur, Fashir, Junaynah, and Nyala and we have confirmed there are no Libyan forces. Any opposition in any country can seek to provoke the government by resorting to lies and false claims.

Regarding the second part of the question, I believe President al- Qadhdhafi's Chad initiative during the African summit is viewed as a moral and political commitment by him even though I cannot predict for a fraternal or friendly country what may happen. This is up to them.

I hope this initiative is a serious one, because such a position, if sincere, will calm a region in which we are extremely interested. What affects this region will also affect Sudan's security.

[Al-Sa'id] What about your relations with Libya, and do these relations reflect negatively on relations between you and Egypt?

[Khalil] Frankly, I believe such talk is baseless, because Sudan has been making its own decisions for years. Our relations are not and will never be proconditioned or imposed by any side. This never happens at all. People can assume whatever they like, but assumptions do not epitomize reality.

I can affirm that Sudan makes its own decisions through a popular consensus. Personal mood has no place and decisions are not imposed on us.

[Al-Sa'id] What about reports that Sudan is mediating to hold a Libyan-Egyptian summit in Khartoum to patch up differences?

[Khalil] This point was clarified during the State Council chairman's visit to Libya. I believe such attempts are necessary, because resumption of relations between Egypt and Libya will be very useful. As long as there is an opportunity for such a reconciliation, Sudan will spare no efforts, because it is more qualified for such a mission than other countries.

Sudan is an extension and a strategic depth for Egypt. I hope the State Council chairman and the prime minister will succeed in achieving such a reconciliation in the near future. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] How do you assess the U.S. armament policy toward the region's countries? Do you not believe that it abandons the region by refusing, through Congress, to supply the Arab countries with weapons, claiming that these weapons will go to countries hostile to Israel, while it makes many arms deals with Israel without any preconditions and signs memorandums of understanding with it?

[Khalil] I agree with you on this point. The United States should strike some balance in its policy toward the region's countries, because such a policy will produce grave results.

If Congress rejects any arms deal with any Arab country, this Arab country will automatically resort to alternative countries for arms. This is what happened when Saudi Arabia recently concluded an arms deal with Britain.

Other countries such as Kuwait and Jordan also concluded arms deals with countries other than the United States. Is it in the U.S. interest that such Arab countries, which used to obtain weapons from the United States, look for alternative countries to purchase weapons?

The United States should understand that if a country is denied U.S. arms, it will go to another country to purchase weapons, especially since the region's countries are able to purchase weapons from any other country. [passage omitted]

More Anya Nya II Soldiers Join SPLA-SPLM

EA3107092988 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Another group of 917 Anya Nya II officers, noncommissioned officers, and men led by Colonel Gordan Con Ben Twing and Colonel Joseph Trot Wai have responded to the unity agreement concluded in January between the SPLM/SPLA and Anya Nya II and joined the movement.

A correspondent for the Radio SPLA in Northern Upper Nile says that Col Gordan Con Ben Twing and Col Joseph Trot Wai have already arrived at Japmir with a force of more than 255 soldiers.

They were welcomed to the movement on behalf of the SPLM/SPLA V airman [as heard] and commander in chief by Commander Lamasol (Lajawin), alternate member of SPLM/SPLA Political-Military High Command and a zonal commander of Northern Upper Nile. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Ben Ali Makes Closing Speech at Party Congress

LD3107153288 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1244 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Closing speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at the Democratic Constitutional Rally "Salvation Congress" in Tunis at the Palace of Congresses—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Honorable guests, honorable deputies, ladies and gentlemen: Our congress is now coming to its end. I have been following with interest and attention its work at the committee level or at the level of the general session.

This congress has been truly historic from the point of view of the type of person participating in it and the entry into its ranks of a new generation, who rose up to champion the change and support the process of national salvation.

It can also be considered historic from the point of view of the detailed debates that took place on the major issues which are preoccupying our people's minds and attracting the attention of observers during this crucial stage of our history.

With the end of this congress, the framework of the Rally, along with the chairmanship, will have been completed in a way suitable to the requirements of the coming stage of change our country has embarked upon with determination and steadfastness.

Brothers and sisters, there is nothing more delicate in the life of societies and political regimes than the moment of change and transformation. There is no way of overcoming the pitfalls of these stages or narrowing the difficulties and perils, except by defining the issues and clarifying the vision concerning them and outlining the aims and the stages needed to achieve them.

What is our aim and intention from change and what are the issues that are put before us today? What we want to realize in the domain of political and social reality of our country is clear and unambiguous. It is national reconciliation in its comprehensive and wider meaning. [applause]

Reconciliation of the state with society, and reconciliation of the state and its general directions with the civilizing identity of our country and our geographical and political environment, namely democracy, is one of the conditions of the comprehensive national reconciliation. It is a necessary beginning for shaping new generations, which are enthusiastic about the issue of development and are capable of shouldering their tasks competently and ably.

It is also restoring respect to the values without which we cannot guarantee our existence, continuation, and development as a national group in today's world—namely, the national values, citizenship, and work.

Democracy occupies a strategic and distinguished position among these aims. And this is what our attention was centered on during the previous stage—on perpetuating democracy as a value in itself and preparing the conditions to enable it to become an embodiment in our exercise and our relationship at all levels.

Democracy is one of the most prominent values of our national movement. Our party has been known historically as the Destourian Party, which called for (?creating a parliament)—a demand springing from a popular and free will—which tops the list of its programs and objectives.

Experience has shown inside and outside our country, past and present, that there is no democracy without pluralism, without guaranteeing freedom of speech and freedom of organization, without honest elections, and without independence and balance in authority.

Experience in our country has also shown that there is an organic relationship between democracy inside parties and the public liberties in the country which cannot be denied. There is no democracy inside a party without democracy in the country, and vice versa.

We have so far succeeded in guaranteeing a balanced development toward democracy in both fields. We are determined to forge ahead with the same program and with whatever foresight is required to ward off setbacks and frustration, and to provide for this civilized trend every chance for success.

We wanted our congress to be one of real settlement. We have completely departed from the negative signs of the past, and we have totally departed from the mentality of a one-party system. Despite the importance of our party's heritage, its ancient struggle, and its wide grassroots, it cannot pretend to represent all the active forces in the country.

In this connection, one should stress an obvious reality, which is that no matter how important parties are, they cannot rise above the state, or even reach the position of a state, or replace its institutions. Our party is proud that it established the independent state and it is now working toward consolidating its pillars and modernization.

The state belongs to all Tunisians, irrespective of their opinions, tendencies, and views. It is through this sole conviction that the citizen feels solicitude towards the state's institutions and the enjoyment of belonging to the nation. The state derives its legitimacy and strength from the mobilization of Tunisians around it.

In this connection, one should clearly tackle an issue which was forbidden in the past and which is today being proposed with great shyness. It is the issue of the ambiguity of combining the Presidency of the Rally and the Presidency of the state during this very phase of our national history.

Here, I would like to state very clearly that the president of state is after all the president of all Tunisians. [applause]

In this case, the president treats all parties on an equal basis. Therefore, I have always sought advice from all parties with regard to issues that are related to the national community and which affect the state's impregnability and fate.

The state Presidency does not contradict the Presidency of a party. Therefore, as you have gathered, I am pleased to accept your proposal to be president of the Democratic Constitutional Rally.

I will work toward making our Rally a vital and strong framework in which all national abilities will be forged. In order to make the Rally's organs more efficient, and in order to avoid confusion between governmental responsibility and direct partisan responsibility, we support the contents of the internal administration committee with regard to canceling the position of Rally director.

The duties of the secretary general will be allocated to a member of the Political Bureau without governmental responsibilities, and we are creating the position of deputy chairman who will help me in following up the affairs of the Rally.

Despite my leadership of the Rally, this will not obstruct the inclusion of all good and able people in shouldering the burden of government, if the good of the state and nation require this, regardless of their political affiliations. In this capacity, I will be committed to securing the neutrality of the administration and the freedom and honesty of elections, because, as I have previously announced, from today there is no falsification of elections.

Brothers and sisters, change is occurring and it is irreversible. Nothing is more indicative of this than this concentrated attendance by the members, especially the youth, of this congress. Despite this happiness, optimism, and high morale, which has spread throughout the country since the beginning of the change, this should not hide the difficulties which are awaiting us.

How can we secure a continued democratic tendency? How can we deepen the democratic option? How can we consecrate it in the social and political reality? Our way to this is not to restrict ourselves to organizing relations between the state and the parties, and among the parties themselves at the level of the senior strata.

We are working toward creating a solid groundwork for democratic practice at the local and regional levels. Only this will make the democratic option an irreversible reality; only this will secure the mobilization of all the abilities at the grassroot level for the benefit of progress and development in our country.

In this respect, we have to stress that democracy is not just administrative laws and resolutions. It is primarily the personal behavior of every citizen. We all have to prove that we are worthy of and qualified for democracy. This cause is today a trust for every Tunisian.

The citizen cannot be worthy of democracy unless, when practicing his voting right, he overcomes his regional, sectarian, and tribal tendencies, whether at the party level or within the framework of professional organizations, or when choosing his representatives to the local councils and the House of Deputies.

Brothers and sisters, our country is facing many problems. Some of them are old, some are new. The ready-made usual solutions are no longer suitable for these problems. All these problems require us to adopt a new method of thinking and method of action which mobilize resources and abilities in order to find new efficient solutions.

How can we do that without giving thinkers and imaginative people the opportunity to work in an atmosphere in which opinions and thoughts freely and responsibly compete? There is no creativity without freedom and without consideration of the sanctity of thought.

In particular under these circumstances, democracy is the inevitable gateway for meeting the challenges of the present and future and for overcoming difficulties. In this field, similar to others, the state and its administrative organs have a great role in solving the problems of the present and in planning for the future.

Citizens consider the administration the mirror of the political regime. The citizen judges for or against the regime according to the way he is treated by the administration when dealing with his affairs. Therefore, we give great attention to administrative reform and to the simplification of procedures, so that the citizen feels that the administration is dedicated to his service and facilitates the fulfillment of his aims and guides him when he needs to be and treats him as a free, honored citizen. Only this will develop the citizen's pride in his country and the spirit of defending and protecting the homeland.

Some people wonder whether, by changing the party's name, we have abandoned socialism as an option and course of action. Socialism remains one of the pillars of our Rally. Our understanding of it means participating in shouldering the burdens of production and distributing its fruits as fairly as possible among those who contribute to it.

The aim of socialism is to achieve social justice and raise the standard of the weak sectors of society in particular, especially as we know that many pockets of poverty are still burdening some sections and regions of society. This situation always preoccupies me and makes me stress to the officials the necessity of dealing with them as soon as possible, in spite of the fact that I am convinced that this not an easy matter.

Anyway, we are urgently called upon to rehabilitate work as a civilized, social, and economic value. We must restore to work its status and sanctity as the best way for establishing one's identity and contributing to the dignity of the homeland.

There is no progress without hard, persistent work. There are examples for us in societies which until recently were in our current position and whose resources were not more than what we have now, and now they are among the advanced nations who are counted and respected.

We are not asking for the impossible. Our ambition is to secure honorable living conditions for our people and to make our country a center of light and a pillar of civilization interacting with the advanced societies.

If we really want to and are really committed, we can produce the best intellectual and scientific abilities, make our contribution to cultural creativity and scientific and technological inventions, and make our country a bright torch for the world.

Brothers and sisters, tomorrow you will return to your localities. I rely on you to convey the new message of the Rally to your brother activists and to the general public.

I rely on you to work toward making our Rally a framework in which the best national abilities meet in order to insure that the Rally maintains its leading historic role and to make it a strong support for a successful march toward development.

And say: Work, soon will God observe your work, and His apostle and the believers. [Koranic verse] God has spoken the truth. Peace be on you and God's mercy and blessings.

Ben Ali Makes Political Bureau Appointments

LD3107221988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] In accordance with the internal statute of the Destourian Democratic Rally, Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, chairman of the Rally, made the following appointments to the Political Bureau:

Mr Hedi Baccouche, deputy chairman of the Rally;

Mr Abderrahim Zouari, secretary general of the Rally;

Mr Abdallah Kallel, financial secretary of the Rally;

Habib Ammar, Abdelhamid Escheikh, Ismail Khelil, members of the Rally.

Western Sahara

Morocco, Algeria Reach 'Semi-Final Agreement'

PM2907113588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jul 88 p 1

[Qasiyy Salih Darwish report: "Algerian-Moroccan Agreement To Solve the Sahara Problem"]

[Excerpt] Paris—French diplomatic sources have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there is a semi-final agreement between Algeria and Morocco on a draft solution for the Sahara problem.

Under this agreement, the Sahara region will be granted broad autonomy similar to that in Quebec, Canada, and will have the right to independent economic and cultural representation abroad, but the Moroccan Kingdom will handle diplomatic and military representation.

The sources say that the agreement also covers the type of referendum to be carried out under UN supervision. The question to be put to the Saharan people will be: "Are you for or against autonomy in the Sahara?"

That would leave no room for a 'no' answer and it means that the result of the referendum would not show victor or vanquished, but would be a reflection of the Algerian-Moroccan understanding. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

UK Prime Minister Arrives for Official Talks

JN3007061688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Manama, 29 Jul (WAKH)—British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher arrived in Manama tonight for an official 2-day visit to Bahrain.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of the State of Bahrain, received Mrs Thatcher upon her arrival. She was also welcomed by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs; Shaykh Khalid ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, head of the deputy amir's office; and John Allan Shepherd [name as received], British ambassador to Bahrain.

Mrs Thatcher will hold talks with his highness the deputy amir in order to boost bilateral relations. They will also discuss issues of common concern.

The British prime minister's visit to Bahrain comes at the beginning of a tour of Oman, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Foreign Minister Comments

JN3007085188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0822 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Manama, 30 Jul (WAKH)—A round of talks was held this morning between the Bahraini side led by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of the State of Bahrain, and the British side led by Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher. The talks were attended by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs; Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief; John Allan Shepherd [name as received], British ambasador to Bahrain; and the delegation accompanying the British prime minister.

In a statement to WAKH, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah said that the talks between His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah and Mrs Thatcher focused on promoting bilateral ties. He added that they also discussed important issues which concern both sides, particularly issues related to the Gulf region, Iran's acceptance of UN Resolution No 598, and the work to implement this resolution.

The Bahraini foreign minister pointed out that both sides agreed on joint efforts to achieve peace in the Arabian Gulf. He said the talks also dealt with ongoing developments in the Palestinian issue and the work to convene an international peace conference.

In conclusion, the Bahraini foreign minister affirmed that the talks were fruitful and constructive and that they will contribute to cordial and historic bilateral relations.

Thatcher Sums Up Talks, Leaves

JN3007103788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0934 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Manama, 30 Jul (WAKH)—British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher left Bahrain today at the end of a 1-day visit. His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy Amir of Bahrain, headed those who saw her off. She was also seen off by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Defense Minister Major General Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, and a number of Bahraini civilian and military officials.

The British prime minister said her talks with the deputy Amir dealt mainly with the Gulf situation and efforts to cease fire between Iraq and Iran in general, in addition to bilateral relations in all domains.

In a press statement here today, Mrs Thatcher said the situation in the Gulf has special significance for the world since the Gulf is an economic center and an important artery for international trade.

Mrs Thatcher said the talks also touched on the Arab-Israeli conflict, indicating that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' Middle East initiative has not made any progress due to the U.S. and Israeli elections. She speculated that this initiative might be accepted after these elections.

Regarding Britain's view of important Gulf developments, particularly Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598, she said that Britain has long awaited this announcement. She said: We were wondering how to end this 8-year-long war. We heard that Iran has accepted this resolution which was discussed thoroughly before it was endorsed by the Security Council.

Margaret Thatcher said: What is important now is to implement Resolution 598, particularly the first part on a cease-fire which we hope will be implemented within the next few days. The second part of the resolution deals with the establishment of comprehensive peace in the region, a matter which requires some time. She added that the permanent member states of the Security Council should meet to give the resolution the required implementation power in order to attain comprehensive peace in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Prime Minister's Visit to U.S. Hailed as Success

LD3107084888 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 31 (KUNA)—Daily "AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM" Sunday hailed the outcome of the visit made by H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah to the U.S. recently, indicating that the visit has further enhanced Kuwait's political image on the international front.

H.H. Shaykh Sa'd is due home later today from a private visit to West Germany preceded by an official visit to the U.S., during which he met with President Ronald Reagan and other senior officials.

"H.H. the crown prince was open in outlining the Arab issues and was able to open new channels of dialogue with American personalities inside the administration, Congress and the press," it said. It added that the U.S.-Kuwaiti talks did a lot of good in bringing views of both sides much closer, especially those regarding peace and ending hot issues which can hinder the execution of justice.

Regarding the nearly eight-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, Shaykh Sa'd made it as bright as daylight for Americans, greatly deceived by Israel's "democracy", that the revolution was triggered by long years of suffering and repression.

Cabinet Praises Perez de Cuellar's Peace Efforts

LD3107141088 Kuwaiti KUNA in English 1312 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 31 (KUNA)—Kuwait Sunday hoped for success of current efforts by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to find a comprehensive and peaceful settlement of the Iraq-Iran war. It also praised Perez de Cuellar's efforts to implement the UN resolution in its entirety and as an indivisible package.

Following today's Cabinet weekly session, Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rudan stated that the Council of Ministers discussed important developments on the Arab and international levels and followed with great interest efforts exerted to settle the Gulf war following Iran's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598.

Considering the Security Council resolution a just and honourable formula for ending the Gulf conflict, the Cabinet underlined that a peaceful settlement to the Gulf war will enhance complete national sovereignty of every state without interference in either country's internal affairs, Al-Rudan said.

At the outset of the Cabinet meeting, chaired by Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the Council took note of messages exchanged between H.H. the amir of Kuwait and Tunisia's President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali which dealt with issues of common concern and further strengthening of bilateral ties.

The Cabinet also took note of the message sent by H.H. the amir to Pakistan's President General Muhammed Ziaul Haq which tackled Kuwaiti-Pakistani relations and means of boosting them in addition to matters of bilateral concern.

Moreover, the Cabinet listened to a report by Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-'Adhbi explaining developments in the international oil market and the extent of commitment by OPEC members to their production quotas.

In this regard, Shaykh 'Ali informed the Council of the forthcoming meeting of OPEC's Price Monitoring Committee, due to take place in Lausanne, Switzerland, during the first week of August with the aim of stabilizing markets and defending oil prices until the end of this year.

Amir Receives Message From Saddam Husayn

LD0108101388 Kuwait KUNA in English 0940 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 1 (KUNA)—H.H. the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Monday received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, the content of which was not disclosed.

The message was conveyed by Iraqi first deputy premier and member of the Revolution Command Council Taha Yasin Ramadan who arrived here earlier today on a brief visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shayykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman al-Shahin and the Iraqi ambassador here.

Acting Premier Leaves on Visit to Saudi Arabia

LD3007100588 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1028 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Jul (KUNA)—Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad, acting prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, left Kuwait this morning for Saudi Arabia on a short several-hours' visit.

KUNA learned that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad will learn about the health of Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, who recently underwent a medical operation in Riyadh. He will convey wishes for good health and a swift recovery.

Oman

British Prime Minister Arrives for Short Visit

JN3007121588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1144 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Salalah, 30 Jul (WAKH)—British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher arrived in Salalah from Manama at noon today on a 1-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. Thuwayni ibn Shihab, the personal representative of the sultan, led those who received Mrs Thatcher. She was also received by a number of senior officials.

Mrs Thatcher will hold talks with Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and a number of senior officials on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Meets With Sultan

JN3007133588 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as soon as she arrived at 1300 today on a 1-day visit to the Sultanate. The meeting was attended by his majesty's personal representative and Yusuf ibn 'Alawi, state minister for foreign affairs. Also present was the British prime minister's delegation. She had arrived in the country earlier in the day. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Receives Iran's Besharati, Message

JN3107125688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Doha, 31 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, has received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. The message was conveyed by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Muhammad 'Ali Besharati in Doha today.

Doha radio said the message deals with current developments in the region in light of Iran's acceptance of Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for a ceasefire between Iraq and Iran and settling the dispute between them in a comprehensive, just, and honorable manner in accordance with the UN Charter to reinforce security, stability, and peace in the region.

His highness the amir of the State of Qatar voiced satisfaction with Iran's acceptance of the Security Council resolution, stressing the importance of ending the war between the two neighboring Muslim countries, ending the bloodshed, and advancing toward peace and stability in order to benefit the two neighboring countries and the region and strengthen world peace and security.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym and Iranian Ambassador to Qatar Mohammad Baqer Sakhai. The Iranian envoy also conveyed a similar message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, yesterday.

Confers With Envoy

LD3107154088 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani welcomed Iran's acceptance of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 in a meeting with Iran's acting foreign minister 'Ali Muhammad Besharati in Doha Sunday.

The Qatari amir expressed hope that Tehran-Doha ties would expand in view of Iran's strategic situation. Besharati conveyed a message to Al Thani from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

The two sides also conferred on regional developments, Iran's stance vis-a-vis the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and mutual relations.

Amir Receives Iraqi Envoy, Message From President

JN0108101088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Doha, 1 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received a verbal message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the regional developments and ongoing peace efforts to stop the Iraq-Iran war and to implement UN Resolution No 598 calling for a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement of the conflict between the two countries in accordance with international legitimacy and the UN Charter after Iran announced its acceptance of this resolution.

Sa'dun Shakir Mahmud, RCC member and the Iraqi president's envoy, conveyed the message to the amir during a meeting today. QNA said that the Qatari amir reiterated his country's support for peace efforts and for every step to end the war between the two Muslim neighbors, Iraq and Iran, so that they will try to promote the well-being and prosperity of their peoples in the interest of the Isalmic nation and its just causes.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister.

Saudi Arabia

Spokesman Denies Arms Deal Hurt Ties With U.S.

LD3007195388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Riyadh, 30 Jul 1988, SPA—Commenting on broadcasts by the CBS Television network and the ASSOCIATED PRESS yesterday, and on articles and commentaries published in newspapers on the recent deal by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to buy arms from Britain, and on the effect this arms deal has on the economic and political relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States, a responsible source told SPA the following today:

We would not have commented on what the media said about this deal had it not begun to cast some doubts on the nature of relations between the Kingdom and the United States, a matter which needs clarifying. Such matters cannot imfluence at all the strength of these relations, whose roots go back half a century.

The source continued: Believing that the stand by the hardliners in Congress against the sale of weapons to the Kingdom was not out of hostility toward us—inasmuch as Congress is subject to well-known pressures which harm u.s. economic interests—the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wants to reaffirm its desire to obtain its military needs, in the form of aircraft and advanced defensive weapons, from U.S. factories. This is done with peaceful intentions and complete conviction in continuing efforts to achieve security and stability in the region.

The source concluded: The Kingdom is still pursuing its program to consolidate its capabilities to defend the homeland and its sacred places by the methods necessary to achieve this—from any state without any restrictions or conditions.

United Arab Emirates

Iran's Besharati Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN3007101688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Jul (WAKH)—'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Iranian deputy foreign minister, arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a visit to the UAE during a regional tour. He was received by Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, UAE Foreign Ministry undersecretary.

Delivers Message to President

JN3007153788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 30 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i concerning current developments in the region and bilateral relations.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Muhammad 'Ali Besharati delivered the message during his reception by His Highness Shaykh Zayid in the city of Al-'Ayn this noon.

WAM said that His Highness Shaykh Zayid praised Iran's move toward peace and the necessity of ending the war as soon as possible so that stability will return to the region. We expressed hope that things will develop in the right direction in order to establish just and comprehensive peace between the two Muslim neighbors.

WAM also said that His Highness Shaykh Zayid expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Iranian leadership for accepting the Security Council resolution and for its desire to end the bloodshed and put out the fire between the brothers and establish peace.

The UAE president said he appreciated the fact that the Iranian envoy had briefed him on the Iranian position and the basic motives which led to the Iranian decision to accept peace.

The Iranian envoy affirmed that his government wanted to stop Muslim bloodshed because continuation of the war wastes the energies and capacities of the two nations, which serves the interests of the Muslims' enemies.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid said to the Iranian envoy: We are all Muslim brothers. Had the war been between Iran and another non-Islamic country or Iraq and another non-Islamic country, every Muslim, especially in the Gulf region, would have sided with his brother. He added: The financial losses of both Iraq and Iran can be replaced and Muslims can cooperate and stand by their brothers in Iraq and Iran.

Concludes Visit

JN3107153488 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 31 Jul (WAM)—Muhammad 'Ali Besharati, Iran's deputy foreign minister, left the country this morning after a 2-day visit to the UAE in the course of a Gulf tour.

The Iranian envoy gave a letter from President 'Ali Khamene'i to President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on regional developments and bilateral ties.

The chief of the foreign affairs desk at the Foreign Ministry and Iran's UAE ambassador saw him off at the airport.

Yemen Arab Republic

Presidential Decree Forms New Government

JN3107204488 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Jul 88

["Text" of Presidential Decree No 41 for 1988 forming a new government, issued in Sanaa on 31 July]

[Text] In the name of the people, the president of the Republic, according to the Permanent Constitution and the Presidential Decree No 6 for 1988 to appoint a prime minister and designate him to form a new government, and according to the recommendation of the prime minister and what is dictated by the public welfare, decrees:

Article 1: The new government shall be formed as follows:

Brother Dr Hasan Muhammad Makki, deputy prime minister;

Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim 'Ali al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs;

Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, and head of the Central Planning Organ;

Brother Mujahid Yahya Abu Shawarib, deputy prime minister;

Brother Eng 'Abdallah Husayn al-Kurshumi, minister of public works and transportation;

Brother Dr 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, minister of interior;

Brother Al-Qadi 'Ali ibn 'Ali al-Samman, minister of awqaf and guidance;

Brother Ahmad 'Ali al-Muhanni, minister of petroleum and mineral wealth;

Brother Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud 'Abd al-Hamid, minister of economy, supply, and trade;

Brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of communications and telecommunications;

Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs;

Brother Eng Ahmad Muhammad al-Anisi, minister of education and head of the general authority of scientific institutes;

Brother Isma'il Ahmad al-Wazir, minister of legal and Consultative Council affairs;

Brother Muhsin Muhammad al-'Ulufi, minister of justice;

Brother Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, minister of social affairs and labor;

Brother Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture;

Brother Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab, minister of youth and sports;

Brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Ja'ifi, minister of civil service and administrative reform;

Brother 'Alawi Salih al-Salami, minister of finance;

Brother Eng Jamal Muhammad 'Abduh, minister of electricity and water;

Brother Eng Muhsin 'Ali al-Hamadani, minister of municipalities and housing;

Brother Dr Nasir 'Abdallah al-'Awlaqi, minister of agriculture and fisheries;

Brother Dr Muhammad 'Ali Muqbil, minister of health.

Article 2: This decree shall be enforced as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Republic Presidency on 18 Dhi al-Hijjah, 1408 Hegira, corresponding to 31 July 1988.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress; 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee

Hammadi Calls for 'Direct Negotiations'

JN3007093788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, has made a statement to INA in which he said:

Iraq has always called for the need to achieve a just, honorable peace. Therefore, Iraq has wanted to implement Resolution No 598 from the satrt since a correct beginningis necessary to guarantee sound implementation.

The world, he said, knows the events that made Iran announce its acceptance of the resolution, and they are, in order of importance: Military, internal, and international. The world also knows the opinion of the only ruler of Iran, Khomeyni, with regard to the decision.

Therefore, Iraq, which is familiar with the Iranian regime's way of thinking and intentions, cannot deal with the implmeentation of the resolution without taking this into consideration.

Iran's mere announcement of its acceptance of the resolution is not enough evidence of good intentions and correct understanding of the content of the resolution.

We value the wishes of the international community, particularly the permanent members of the Security Council, for a cease-fire. However, we are concerned about the complete and sound implementation of the resolution in accordance with the sequence of its paragraphs. The implmentation should be preceded by an agreement on all the contents of the sequence of paragraphs, including the cease-fire.

We believe that direct negotiations are the correct path for the sound implementation of the resolution. They are the shortest and the most guaranteed way.

We want to be directly acquainted with the intentions of the Iranian side and how it understands the resolution articles. We do not know how a party that really wants peace can reject holding discussions and negotiations with a second party which is necessary to achieve peace.

We expect the UN secretary general and all those seeking a speedy peace to support this. We do see why Iran would reject this if it has good intentions and if it really seeks comprehensive peace and an agreement in this regard.

He added: From a position of responsibility, we believe that a hasty search for a cease-fire as a separate case and before direct negotiations begin entails the danger of stumbling and stopping in the middle of the road. This would mean the implementation of some of the clauses of the resolution that suit Iran and the non-implementation of others that do not suit it.

He added: Iraq's request is in itself clear evidence of its goodwill and desire to implement the resolution as soon as possible, but Iran's rejection of it increases our doubts about its true intentions.

Iraq will be affected by the material impact of stumbling in the middle of the road. Therefore, Iraq must make sure of a sound beginning and must act responsibly toward the attainment of peace. As part of its defense of its legitimate interests and that of its responsibility to attain a comprehensive and just peace, Iraq will not yield to pressures regardless of their type or source.

In conclusion, the minister of state for foreign affairs said: By this stand, Iraq does not set conditions, but establishes a logical path prompted by goodwill and responsibility.

UN Spokesman Views 'Concept' Of Resolution 598

JN3007205488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2026 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] United Nations, 30 Jul (INA)—Riyad al-Qaysi, spokesman for the Iraqi delegation at the United Nations, has said the basic objectives of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 are to achieve a genuine, comprehensive, and strong peace between Iraq and Iran and also in the Arabian Gulf.

In statements to journalists today, he added: This is the concept of the resolution as understood by Iraq, the UN Security Council, and the UN secretary general. To make sure that the Iranians have the same concept, Iraq has called for direct negotiations between the two parties under the auspices of the UN secretary general as the best formula to test the Iranian intentions. Direct negotiations are the only sound procedures to attain a genuine, comprehensive, strong, and swift peace, he said.

Riyad al-Qaysi explained: Facts which emerged in the past few days clearly point out that the Iranians' objective is not so. Iran seeks a truce that does not fully realize the aim of Security Council Resolution No 598, which calls for a comprehensive end to the Iraq-Iran war.

He said: The way the Iranians are behaving irrefutably proves that what Iraq has proposed is not only a legitimate and genuine thing but it is also a vital thing to secure a genuine, strong, and comprehensive peace between the two countries. This is also sought by the United Nations and the Security Council, he added.

Saddam Husayn Chairs 2 Meetings for Commanders

JN0108124388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 AUG (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, Armed forces commander in chief, has chaired two meetings for the Armed Forces General Command and field commanders.

Attending the two meetings were Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; Brigadier General Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization; and the president's secretary.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,278

JN2907162288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,278 issued by the Armed Froces General Command on 29 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our victorious forces last night and today continued their combat activities in the areas of operation as follows:

1. Our heroic Air Force flew daring raids on the enemy units, inflicting more losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment in addition to destroying many vehicles and emplacements in 150 combat missions. All our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Our helicopters flew 143 combat sorties today in which they destroyed many scoundrels' assembly points, equipment, and positions. Our helicopters returned safely to base under God's care and protection.

3. An enemy force attempted to approach one of our forward positions in the I Army Corps northern sector. Our valiant men confronted the enemy group with their weapons and were able, with God's help, to kill 75 enemy personnel and wound others. In another area in the same sector, 10 scoundrels were killed, 1 vehicle was destroyed, and 2 persons were captured.

4. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, three enemy personnel were killed, one ammunition dump was blown up, and one vehicle was set on fire.

In the VII Army Corps sector, two enemy personnel were killed, one infantry position was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 July 1988

Communique No 3,279

JN3007170388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,279 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 30 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces, while sharing with our lofty minded people their joys and rejoicings on the 20th anniversary of the eternal 30 July, confirm their superior ability to defend great Iraq and the glorious Arab nation.

Our Armed Forces express their gratitude for the endeavors exerted by the revolution and its unique leader, Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn. May God protect him so the revolution can rise to greater heights that will safeguard the people's accomplishments, protect the homeland's dignity, and ward off aggression against this homeland.

On this blessed occasion, our victorious forces beseech Almighty God to protect the people's leader, the architect of the revolution, and the builder of its glory. They also entreat Almighty God to prolong his life so he may remain an asset, a protector, and a hero for his nation and people.

The following is a roundup of the combat activities carried out by our troops last night and today:

1. The planes of our heroic Air Force continued to deal devastating blows to the Khomeyniites' heads, killing their scoundrels and inflicting destruction on their weapons and equipment. Having flown 125 combat missions, all of our planes returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. The courageous knights of the helicopter gunships today flew 89 combat sorties eliminating the aggressors' remnants, their weapons, emplacements, and their vehicles. Then they returned with their helicopter gunships safely to base, God be praised.

3. Their infantry positions were destroyed, two large vehicles, including one carrying personnel, were set on fire and destroyed, and six ammunition dumps were blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. Also, an ambush by one of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan managed to destroy one enemy vehicle and capture eight enemy personnel with their weapons.

4. Two scoundrels were killed in the V Army Corps northern sector. Furthermore, four other scoundrels were killed, seven infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

5. Five enemy boats attempted to approach one of our naval units yesterday. They were confronted by the weapons of the courageous men who forced them to flee toward the Iranian coast.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 July 1988

Communique No 3,280

JN3107162488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,280 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 31 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The activities of our brave Armed Forces last night and today were as follows:

1. Our heroic Air Force is continuing to carry out its combat activities. Its planes flew 115 combat missions today, inflicting losses on the scoundrels' personnel, weapons, and equipment. After carrying out their duties, our planes returned safely to base. God be praised.

2. Our brave helicopter gunships flew 107 combat missions, attacking several scoundrel concentrations and destroying several positions and a number of vehicles. Then they returned safely to their bases. God be praised.

3. At different times last night, the enemy sent 11 boats in an abortive attempt to approach the Al-'Amiq port. Our brave naval units confronted them with various types of weapons, destroying and sinking, with God's help, one enemy boat while the other boats fled.

4. Two enemy personnel were killed in the I Army Corps northern sector and five others were captured and one vehicle was seized in the Special I Army Corps sector—Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. One ammunition dump was blown up and a number of enemy personel were killed in the II Army Corps central sector and three infantry positions were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. An enemy patrol approached the position of one of our units in the V Army Corps northern sector. The patrol was attacked, three personnel were killed, and the others were wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 31 July 1988

Announcement of Withdrawal

JN2907202688 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2004 GMT 29 Jul

[Statement by military spokesman dated 29 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In implementation of a pledge we made to ourselves in previous communiques and statements—a pledge that represents our clear and declared policy which we affirmed on several occasions—we will withdraw from the Iranian towns and hamlets from which we have not yet withdrawn, and which were occupied by our valiant forces in the central sector during the "Tawakkalna 'Al Allah-IV" operations, within the next 48 hours. These towns and hamlets are (Halvan), Qasr-e Shirin, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Sumar, and Amirabad.

While we act with such a principled sense of responsibility toward our pledges and policies, we warn the rulers of Iran that any attempt to transgress against our Armed Forces and national soil will be met with force. In such a case—in accordance with the requirements of military action and in order to spare our forces avoidable losses—our attacks in response to enemy attacks will not be confined to any particular sector or direction or depth in territory.

However, we will not waver from our original motto: No ambitions in Iranian territory and achievement of comprehensive and complete peace—and that is the objective of all our honorable defensive operations in the past and in the future. God is great. Shame to the ignominious.

[Dated] 29 July 1988

Further on Withdrawal

JN3007184288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1827 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—The Iraqi forces this afternoon completed their withdrawal from new Iranian cities and townships.

This was announced by the military spokesman who said that the Iraqi forces completed at 1530 [1130 GMT] today their withdrawal from the cities and townships of Halvan, Qasr-e Shirin, Sumar, Amirabad, and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. The spokesman pointed out that this withdrawal came in implementation of the decision made by the Armed Forces General Command last night to withdraw from Iranian cities and townships within 48 hours.

Denial of Residential Shelling

JN3007120788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1154 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—Iraq has denied Iranian claims that the Iraqi artillery has shelled residential areas in the Iranian Sar Dasht area and its hamlets. In a statement to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman said the claims propagated by the lying Iranian media are baseless slanders.

Iran Shells Residential Area

JN3107065788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0627 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—The criminal Iranian regime shelled the Bimalik residential complex of Qal'at Dizah last night with long-range artillery.

An Armed Forces General Command official spokesman told INA today that the enemy shelling martyred one woman and injured eight civilians, including five children and one woman.

Reportage on Reactions to Jordanian Decisions

Arabic Papers React

JN2907124388 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Today's Arabic newspapers in East Jerusalem expressed satisfaction with the decision by the Jordanian Council of Ministers yesterday to terminate the development plan for the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

AL-SHA'B newspaper says: This decision constitutes evidence that the masses have realized their objectives and were able to confront the attempts to bypass and encroach on legitimacy.

AL-QUDS newspaper believes that the development plan had created a series of gaps in Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

AL-NAHAR says that the PLO should now shoulder its duty to the Palestinian people and lay down an alternative development plan.

In its announcement of this decision, the Jordanian Government said that this decision aims at removing any doubts cast about the Jordanian stand on the occupied territory. The decision was dictated by Jordan's concern to highlight the Palestinian identity and to enable the PLO to shoulder all its responsibilities.

'No Effect' in Territories

TA3107151488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Report by correspondent in the territories 'Eran Ben-Porat]

[Text] Most businesses throughout Judaea and Samaria were open this morning, and, as has been the custom since the beginning of the intifada [uprising], they closed at lunchtime. Workers left for their jobs in Israel, and the municipalities and government ministries operated normally.

The towns of Qabatiyah and Husan are still under curfew. East Jerusalem was quiet today as well, with only one incident recorded. A stone was thrown at the Bank Hapoalim branch on Al-Zahra Street, smashing a window. No one was injured. Last week, that building was also the target of another stoning incident.

A high attendance rate of workers and normal commercial life was noted in the Gaza Strip as well. Our correspondent in the south, 'Ezra Yanuv, reports that the curfew on the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp was lifted, although the Jabalyah and Al-Shati' refugee camps are still under curfew. The campaign of changing the license plates in the northern part of the Gaza Strip resumed today. It was quiet in Gaza too today, and it is hoped that this quiet will also continue through the night, when the violent incident rate is usually higher.

All in all, one could say that Husayn's moves, which were the main topic of discussion in the area today, have so far had no effect on events in the territories.

Meanwhile, another interpretation of the monarch's move was provided by (Ma'di 'Abd al-Hadi), the head of the Palestinian academic association for research of international affairs. He says that King Husayn's moves nullify both the Alignment's and the Likud's Jordanian option. He called the moves a Jordanian political initiative in the right direction, which acknowledges the message sent through the Palestinian uprising.

Peres Comments

TA3107115088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Following the Cabinet meeting, ministers gave their reactions to King Husayn's declaration on the dissolution of the Jordanian Parliament. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami is there with recorded reactions by several ministers:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] First, let us outline the initial reaction by the main blocs. The first reaction is that this parliament did not do great things in the past, therefore it is possible that all King Husayn has done is issue an initial signal prior to his expected speech. In the meeting the cabinet was given a report and held a discussion. We asked Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres for his reaction to King Husayn's declaration.

[Peres] We are prepared to talk to the Jordanians, we are prepared to talk to the Palestinians, and it is preferable to have talks with the Jordanians and the Palestinians. It is almost impossible to separate them. If you look at the borders, the passports, the ties, you will find the answer.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, how do you interpret the king's decision to disband the Jordanian Parliament?

[Peres] I think that most of the signals are meant for the Palestinians.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is it a tactical or strategic change?

[Peres] Why should I be a commentator? Besides, I do not know what the difference between the two is.

[Ben-'Ami] The foreign minister does not differentiate between tactics and a real change, and it is in fact difficult to differentiate between Jordan and the Palestinians. In general, it has already become an issue between the Alignment and the Likud because of the London agreement.

One side says we lost an opportunity in not implementing the agreement, while the other says the recent events are evidence that it would not have brought about any results. Minister Hayim Corfu, for instance, believes that Jordanian policy will not change following King Husayn's announcement

[Corfu] I believe that what will happen is that he will slightly change the representation so as to hint at his readiness to withdraw. In general, he is looking for a way to return to the previously existing situation. He knows his main weaknesses, what he can and cannot do, and he will continue to play the game within these parameters.

[Ben-'Ami] Does that mean it is not a dramatic change?

[Corfu] It is not a dramatic change. It is a continuation of the situation which has existed over the years, and I have no doubt that within a short time we will find ourselves with only slight changes.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you not afraid that we are losing the king, and thereby Jordan, as a partner?

[Corfu] No, if that is the outcome it is a sign that we never had a partner. In the past it was just show and it will continue to be that way.

[Ben-'Ami] That was Minister Corfu's position. As you heard, at this stage the declaration is being treated as only a cosmetic change, with differing commentaries on the type of cream being used. We still have to hear the speech. [end recording]

Jordan's Moves 'Expected'

TA3107172788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] At the weekly Cabinet session, experts briefed the ministers on King Husayn's latest moves and their implications. The prevailing belief was that the king's measures will not amount to a major break with the past or with the Palestinians in the territories. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] Officials and cabinet ministers in Jerusalem are waiting for King Husayn's speech, but not exactly with bated breath. The ministers were told today that the king's moves are tactical and have been expected ever since the Algiers summit. This evaluation was accepted by both sides of the political spectrum, although some of the ministers could not resist a little electioneering, as they emerged from the cabinet meeting and were accosted by reporters.

The Likud's Hayim Corfu said King Husayn's actions made nonsense of the Jordanian option seen by Shim'on Peres as the linchpin of his peace strategy, while Labor's Moshe Shahal said but for the Likud's opposition to an international conference, King Husayn might be in a very different position today.

During the Cabinet meeting today, Minister Without Portfolio Yosef Shapira demanded to know why no religious person had been included in the consular mission to the Soviet Union. Most of the Jewish activists are observant, Shapira said, and a total absence of religious Jews from the group was a slap in the face for them. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres replied that the delegation was put together on a functional basis and in collaboration with the prime minister. That makes it worse, Shapira retorted. But we are all religious in a sense, Peres persisted. Yes, said Shapira, but only before the elections. [end recording]

That report was prepared prior to the beginning of King Husayn's speech a short time ago.

Shamir Comments

TA3107183388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Report by political correspondent Yig'al Goren—live in the studio]

[Text] King Husayn's speech shows that he no longer embraces the notion of a territorial compromise. This was the reaction by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who commented a few minutes ago about King Husayn's speech. If to date King Husayn wished to obtain a total Israeli withdrawal, said the prime minister, then this evening he is climbing down from his high perch, and no one should shed tears over this.

The prime minister said that there is no reason why Israel should alter its political stand. We desire peace with Jordan and are prepared to reach a peaceful arrangement with it. As for the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, the prime minister said that not only are the autonomy plan and Camp David as valid as ever, but their importance has become even more pronounced today.

Shim'on Peres, the vice prime minister and foreign minister, told us a few minutes ago that the purpose of King Husayn's address is to tell the Palestinians: From now on, you should manage on your own! Shim'on Peres said that King Husayn's address does not alter the fact that Jordan's is the longest border with Israel; that there are more than 1 million Jordanian passport holders in Judaea and Samaria; and that the Jordan River bridges are still open.

At this stage, said Shim'on Peres, this is more of a declaration of intent than anything with practical implications. According to the foreign minister, Husayn's announcement is the outcome of the political stalemate. As long as Israel is still undecided on how it wants to promote the peace process, it will be unable to take the initiative. Policy cannot be nurtured on other people's statements.

These are the initial reactions from Jerusalem.

Ministry Sources 'Disappointed'

TA0108045888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Foreign Ministry sources admit that they are disappointed over Husayn's announcement of a break in Jordan's administrative and legal links with the territories. However, the Foreign Ministry circles note that the definitions in the king's speech were broader than his practical measures. All he had actually done so far was to dissolve the Jordanian Parliament, a step with no practical significance. Even the cessation of the 5-year development plan for the territories had not yet been implemented, and Jordanian institutions in the territories were still functioning. The Foreign Ministry sources said the Jordanian-Palestinian option still exists, provided Israel shows in the November elections that it wishes to take advantage of it.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 1 August on page 1 in a report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar reports: "Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, recently called on Husayn not to abandon the peace process and to stress in his speech his commitment to his agreements with Peres as finalized in London in April 1987. The messages were relayed by Knesset Member Abba Eban, among others, through British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who recently met with Eban in London."]

A source close to Shim'on Peres denied this morning's report in HA'ARETZ that Peres asked Husayn not to abandon the peace process. However, the source said, Husayn certainly knows this is Peres' desire, and in his speech had made it clear he is not abandoning the process.

Palestinian Reaction 'Varied'

TA0108052788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Palestinian reaction varied widely over the speech by King Husayn, but most Palestinians expressed the hope that the king would not issue more restrictions nor cut off funds to the Arabs of the Israeli-administered territories. Steve Rodan spoke to Palestinians on the Husayn speech:

[Begin recording] [Rodan] Palestinian reaction to King Husayn's speech varied widely, and the most outstanding feature was how many prominent Palestinians refused to comment. They included mostly pro-Jordanians or those regarded as close to the Amman regime. One important pro-Jordanian said only time will tell what Husayn meant last night when he announced the cutoff of legal and administrative links with the territories. In the words of this Palestinian: Husayn is smart; he can say words that mean many things. But the people willing to issue public reactions were Palestinians known for their support of the PLO, and they welcomed Husayn's speech as a start. Sa'id Kan'an is a member of the PNC and a prominent businessman in Nabulus.

[Kan'an] Well, he put things in the right direction. Now the Israelis have no choice but to negotiate with the PLO, which we consider our sole and legitimate representative. King Husayn, in cutting the links between both the West and East Banks of the Jordan, actually meant that the Palestinian issue now can only be negotiated with the PLO.

[Rodan] Pro-PLO Palestinians were divided on how far Husayn is willing to go in cutting off links with the territories. Kan'an believes that the king will not decide on more restrictions or a further cut in funding. But Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists' Association in East Jerusalem, said he expected Husayn to end the funding to some 18,000 Jordanian civil servants in the territories, and even place restrictions on the entry of West Bank residents into Jordan, but Abu 'Ayyash says he welcomes this.

[Abu 'Ayyash] Now people will have to learn how to manage by themselves, and I think it's a step towards independence and local administration, which will of course lead to how people would rely on themselves and try to make themselves mature enough to administrate.

[Rodan] But Abu 'Ayyash's view appeared to be the minority one. Most of the Palestinians I spoke to echoed the sentiment of one prominent Palestinian, active in both nationalist and Jordanian circles. In his words: I am a Palestinian and I hold a Jordanian passport, and I don't want to forgo either of them. [end recording]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 1 August in a report on page 1 on Palestinian reaction to the Husayn speech adds that "immediate reactions in the Gaza Strip were mixed last night. Some residents seemed to welcome the king's disclaimer," but Rashad al-Shawwa "said it was too early to assess the significance of the speech. Several weeks must pass before one can come to conclusions, he said. Only then will it become clear what concrete steps the king has in mind. Al-Shawwa, who has issued travel documents enabling Gazans to visit Jordan, said he did not believe that that practice would stop."]

Called 'Worst-Case Scenario'

TA0108055488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Aug 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] The country's leaders stuck to their political guns in reacting to King Husayn's speech last night, but officials confessed their surprise at the king's apparent resoluteness in carrying out his threats to separate Jordan from the West Bank.

Prime Minister Shamir said that "Husayn has shattered the illusion that he is a partner in territorial compromise," while Foreign Minister Peres maintained that the king's statement was "more declarative than practical."

Government analysts, however, said that the king's statement was more sweeping than they had expected. Although it remains to be seen what practical form will be given to Husayn's intention to sever "legal and administrative links" with the West Bank, Husayn appears to be fulfilling their "worst-case scenario." [passage omitted]

A Foreign Ministry official said that after Husayn's speech "the November elections will mean that the Israeli people have to decide whether they prefer to speak to Jordan—and vote Labour—or to the PLO—and vote Likud." The foreign minister has sent messages to Husayn through various channels, urging restraint and warning of the dire consequences for the peace process.

Sources here said that Husayn's speech had upset the agenda of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who is expected here at the end of the week, and who will now have to devote his efforts to keeping Jordan engaged in the peace process.

The sources added that Husayn's speech must also be taken in the context of the expected arrival in Amman of PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Following yesterday's speech, the sources said, it is 'Arafat who will "have to go begging," since his main link with the territories is through Jordan.

Yosi Ben-Aharon, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, said that Husayn is repeating his tactics of 1974, when he severed ties with the West Bank in the wake of that year's Rabat summit decisions. Then, he said, 'Arafat also came running to ask the king to reconsider.

Ben-Aharon said that any steps taken by Husayn will necessarily be "cosmetic," since reality dictates that Jordan be tied to the West Bank. He said that Israel and Jordan will have to seek "pragmatic" arrangements.

Jordanian Option Said 'Dead'

TA0108062788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] The inhabitants of the territories are concerned about the contents of Husayn's speech, although nobody was actually surprised by it. The PLO supporters expressed satisfaction, whereas the pro-Jordanians have not reacted to the moves outlined in Husayn's speech. Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat brings some of the reactions:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Porat] After all the reports in the media and the speculations about Husayn's scheduled speech, nobody in the territories was actually surprised by the contents of the king's speech. Hanna Sinyurah, editor of the AL-FAJR newspaper, does not hide his satisfaction.

[Sinyurah—in English] Everybody was well prepared for what he was saying. He didn't say anything new from what has been expressed so far. Finally there is a declaration of independence. He recognized the separate Palestinian national identity and that we are free to have our own independent Palestinian state.

[Ben-Porat translates the above and continues] The pro-Jordanians also were not surprised by the speech and were actually prepared for this statement. Rashad al-Shawwa of Gaza, who is also a Jordanian citizen, says that the speech is very vague and there is nothing to react to. The pro-Jordanians apparently prefer not to react. 'Uthman al-Hallaq, editor of the pro-Jordanian AL-NAHAR newspaper, could not be reached and has actually disappeared from his newspaper's office. Hanna Sinyurah delivers the obituary of the Jordanian option:

[Sinyurah—in English] The Jordanian option is dead. King Husayn said very clearly during his speech, and he repeated it several times, that he believes that the Palestinians should have their national independence.

[Ben-Porat translates the above and continues] Sinyurah went on to say that it is time the Israelis recognize the Palestinian option. Despite Husayn's speech, Sinyurah is not afraid that the king's moves will harm the inhabitants of the territories. According to Sinyurah, King Husayn will not close the bridges; Jordan will continue acting on behalf of the Palestinian people as a result of Husayn's links to them. Sinyurah expressed the hope that Husayn's move will influence Israeli leaders to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Rabin Says Option Remains

TA0108092788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he does not regard King Husayn's declaration as the end of the Jordanian option, because such an option—that is, negotiations with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation—lies largely in Israel's hands, the significant question being what kind of government will be formed in Israel following the elections.

Minister Rabin added that it is too early to assess all the ramifications of Husayn's statement, saying that the central issue is the extent to which the dissociation process will be implemented. Will Jordanian citizens continue to hold their passports, will state employees continue to receive their salaries, and to what extent will Jordan give preferential treatment to exports from the

West Bank? The defense minister believes that King Husayn's declaration will not affect the uprising as long as it is not translated into practical steps in the field.

The defense minister was interviewed a short time ago by our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe at the Tel Hashomer induction center.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

General Strike in West Bank

TA2907111488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Two 18-year-old girls were detained this morning in their home in Shu'fat. They are suspected of having sewn PLO flags flown in the district in recent days. The Jerusalem police came to the house with a search warrant, after a PLO flag was hoisted on the roof of the house. The police found four completed flags in the girls' possession.

Our correspondent reports that over the past few days, the police have detained over 40 suspects from Silwan, Jabal al-Mukabar, and Shu'fat on charges of organizing the recent riots in East Jerusalem and of participation in disturbances.

An Egged bus was stoned last night on the Al-Taiyiba-Tulkarm road, and its windows were smashed. The bus driver chased the stone throwers and caught one of them, a 17-year-old from the village of Al-Taiyiba. He will be brought before a judge today.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1000 GMT on 29 July adds that "a complete commercial strike is in effect today in Judaea and Samaria. The strike was called for in Leaflet No 22 of the Unified National Command of the Uprising. In several places, however, vendors are on the streets selling food."]

3 Houses Demolished 28 Jul

TA2907180888 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] A 26-year-old Israeli youth was injured by a stone today, while traveling in the northern Gaza Strip. The youth, a resident of Gane Tal in the Qatif Bloc was transferred to the Barzilay medical center for treatment.

A general strike was staged in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza today. The security forces yesterday tore down three houses in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp which belong to three members of a squad which threw Molotov cocktails at IDF soldiers in recent weeks.

4 Youths, 2 Policemen Injured

TA3007111488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Four local inhabitants were injured and two border policemen were slightly wounded by stones in the course of disturbances last night in the Gaza Strip's Al-Shati' refugee camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that local youths violated the curfew and hurled stones at the security forces, who retaliated by opening fire.

IDF Circulates Leaflets

TA3007160688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] The IDF today used a helicopter to drop leaflets in several places in Judaea and Samaria where residents were required to erase slogans and remove flags from their houses. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the leaflets rely on an order which holds owners of property and houses personally responsible for keeping them clean and erasing hostile slogans, and which imposes a 15,000-shekel fine on offenders.

Several dozen members of the Enough to Occupation Movement today asked to visit the village of Bayt Sahur to express solidarity with its inhabitants, but the IDF allowed only 10 of them to enter. A senior area commander explained that this was done for fear of disturbances and stoning incidents. The 10 movement members who entered the village met with the head of the local council and many residents and expressed their solidarity.

Soldier Wounded in Jabalyah

TA3107044488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] At the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, a soldier was wounded yesterday afternoon by a flying stone. The incident took place as the soldier was traveling in an army vehicle, as he was supervising a temporary lifting of the curfew at the camp to allow residents to buy food. He was brought to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon for treatment.

The curfew is back in effect at Jabalyah, as well as the Al-Shati' and Al-Nusayrat refugee camps also in the Gaza Strip.

Arab Studies Center Closed

TA3107045088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Security forces closed the East Jerusalem Arab Studies Center for a period of 1 year and placed its director, Faysal al-Husayni, in administrative detention for 6 months. An East Jerusalem merchant was also placed in detention overnight for a period of 6 months.

Both men were said to have been involved in organizing the Palestinian unrest in Jerusalem and Judaea and Samaria. Back to Steve Rodan:

Early this morning, police and border police raided the Arab Studies Center in East Jerusalem. They seized what a police spokesman called leaflets connected to the Palestinian uprising. At the same time, detectives arrived at the house of the center's director, Faysal al-Husayni, and he was placed in administrative detention for 6 months; this under orders of Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The 47-year-old Al-Husayni is no stranger to such arrests. He was placed in administrative detention in April 1987 and served 3 months. In September he was again placed in detention for 9 months. Al-Husayni was released on 9 June, and the police spokesman said he immediately returned to being the chief operative of the Fatah wing of the PLO in the territories. The spokesman said this included carrying out subversive activity, incitement, and coordinating PLO policy in the area.

Police said Al-Husayni's center is financed by Fatah, and served as a center of the Palestinian uprising. The center allegedly distributed the leaflets calling for strikes and disturbances by Palestinians. The center was also used for meetings between what the spokesman described as representatives of terror groups operating in Judaea and Samaria.

Police also arrested Mustafa Abu Zahra, and he was placed in administrative detention for 6 months. Abu Zahra was convicted in 1979, and sentenced to 3 years in prison for giving aid to a terrorist. Abu Zahra was described as active during the uprising, and as head of the Merchants' Association in East Jerusalem, he organized demonstrations and commercial strikes and urged merchants not to pay their taxes.

Police also took into custody eight other East Jerusalem Arabs and held them for questioning.

Arab Bus Not Shot As Reported

TA3107073488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] The announcement about shots being fired from an Israeli bus at an Arab bus at Mar Ilyas on the Jerusalem-Bethlehem highway was found to be incorrect. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that one of the passengers on the Israeli bus heard explosions which sounded to him like shots, and informed the police.

A large force was sent to the site and after an investigation it became clear that the Arab bus was traveling very close to the Israeli bus causing the side mirrors of the vehicles to smash each other. The noise of the impact sounded like gunshots. The driver of the Arab bus was slightly wounded in the head and legs by pieces of flying glass.

50 Jerusalem Arabs Arrested

TA3107074288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] In the past few days Jerusalem police have arrested approximately 50 Arabs suspected of disturbing the peace. Some 40 were arrested at the end of last week, and another 8 were detained last night.

Our correspondent Moti Amir adds that in a search of the home of Faysal al-Husayni, who was arrested before dawn under a 6-month administrative detention order, leaflets and inciting material were discovered.

General Commercial Strike 1 Aug

TA0108053288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] A general commercial strike is under way in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip today in support of the deportees and in protest against the deportation policy. The strike, which was called by the Unified National Command of the Uprising, will last 2 days.

This morning only a few workers left for work in Israel. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that several of the families of the 10 Arabs issued with deportation orders have been invited to meet with their relatives, leading them to believe that they are to be deported soon.

Al-Duhayshah Under Curfew

TA0108064288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Excerpt] A curfew was imposed on the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem this morning following stone-throwing incidents and disturbances. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in Qabatiyah and Husan the curfew continues. [passage omitted]

Bar-Lev Cited on West Bank Deaths Investigation

TA3007181088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] The police are recommending that three Israeli citizens be tried on suspicion of having killed three residents of the territories. This emerged following a police investigation. The relevant files have been transferred to the state attorney's office.

One of the files concerns the death of a youth from the village of Baytin in January, the second the death of a Qadum resident in February, and the third the death of a shepherd from Turmus 'Ayya at the beginning of May. This was stated by the police affairs minister in reply to a query by Knesset Member 'Oded Tzucker, who asked for information on the investigation of the death of 13 residents of the territories.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the police affairs minister said that no records exist on two of the cases. In two other cases, IDF involvement was established, so they were handed over to the Military Police. Files in three cases were closed, while the police are currently busy working on two other cases. Another file, with which the police were finished, was transferred to the legal adviser in Judaea and Samaria.

Jordanian Lead Followed on Matriculation

TA3107170488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] The Judaea and Samaria Civilian Administration has decided to recognize the mid-year exam results as the final matriculation examination results. The decision was made at the request of various figures connected to the education system in the territories. Another consideration was that the Jordanian Education Ministry unexpectedly passed a similar resolution recently.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the decision means that students who were tested at the end of the first semester, or prior to the beginning of the uprising, will actually be eligible to matriculation diplomas even if they did not attend school during the entire period, or if they spent that time in jail.

Jordan made its decision approximately a week ago in a bid to assist the uprising.

'Military Source' Says 'Uprising' 'Already Lost'

TA2907115088 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Jul 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] "The intifada [uprising] is a war we have already lost. Its continuation in any form serves the PLO's interests. We must free ourselves from the concept and, even more so, the declaration that we will not talk with the PLO, and must start discussing peace with our enemy." This was reported to 'AL HAMISHMAR by a senior military source.

According to him, the continuation of the intifada is "like a cancer in the country's body," as the circle of hatred expands and innocent women and children are killed needlessly every day.

"It will take years for these wounds to heal. These are people with whom we will eventually have to live in peace. Israel's leaders must announce that we are going to put an end to this, and must talk to the PLO which, as everybody agrees, is the only representative of the Palestinian people. On the other hand, a tough policy must be employed against those who continue to throw firebombs."

According to the officer, since the beginning of the uprising in the territories Israel has lost its deterrent power, its early-warning capability, and its ability to tip the scale. This is currently being projected to the whole Arab world.

"We are obliged to find a bridge of understanding. The concepts of some of the ministers, as expressed by Minister Moda'i for one, are unrealistic. While it is clear that an entire nation is involved in the uprising, the unrest is still being dealt with as if we were dealing with several terrorist squads. We have already lost that war. Any step that we take now will be seen as coming from a position of inferiority," he said.

Relating to the effect of the situation on the IDF, the senior officer said: "The soldiers are in an intolerable situation, but the real fear lies in the new behavioral norms taking shape in the IDF. For example, the credibility of IDF reports, which was always its mainstay, is now being eroded.

In the past we used to gain from what we called 'an Egyptian report' or 'an Oriental fantasy.' The Arabs are beyond that, however, while the phenomenon is spreading here," stated the senior officer.

King Husayn Speaks on 'Separation' From West Bank

JN3107185088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1701 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Speech by King Husayn "to the Arab nation" on 31 July—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, and peace be upon his faithful Arab messenger. Brother citizens: I send you greetings and am pleased to address you in your cities and villages, in your camps and dwellings, in your factories, institutions, offices, and establishments. I would like to address your hearts and minds in all parts of our beloved Jordanian land.

This is all the more important at this juncture, when we have initiated—after seeking God's help and after thorough and extensive study—a series of measures to enhance Palestinian national orientation and highlight Palestinian identity; our goal is the benefit of the Palestinian cause and the Arab Palestinian people. Our decision, as you know, comes after 38 years of the unity of the two banks and 14 years after the Rabat summit resolution designating the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It also comes 6 years after the Fes summit resolution that agreed unanimously on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip as one of the bases and results of the peaceful settlement.

We are certain our decision to initiate these measures does not come as a surprise. Many of you have anticipated it, and some of you have been calling for it for some time. As for its contents, it has been a topic of discussion and consideration for everyone since the Rabat summit. Nevertheless, some may wonder: Why now? Why today and not after the Rabat or Fes summits, for instance? To answer this question, we need to recall certain facts that preceded the Rabat resolution. We also need to recall considerations that led to the debate over the slogan-objective which the PLO raised and worked to gain Arab and international support for, namely, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. This meant, in addition to the PLO's ambition to embody the Palestinian identity on Palestinian national soil, the separation of the West Bank from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

I reviewed the facts preceding the Rabat resolution, as you recall, before the Arab leaders in the Algiers extraordinary summit last June. It may be important to recall that one of the main points I emphasized was the text of the unity resolution of the two banks of April 1950. This resolution affirms the preservation of all Arab rights in Palestine and the defense of such rights by all legitimate means without prejudicing the final settlement of the just cause of the Palestinian people—within the scope of the people's aspirations and of Arab cooperation and international justice.

Among these facts there was our 1972 proposal regarding our concept of alternatives, on which the relationship between Jordan on one hand and the West Bank and Gaza on the other may be based after their liberation. Among these alternatives was the establishment of a relationship of brotherhood and cooperation between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the independent Palestinian state in case the Palestinian people opt for that. Simply, this means that we declared our clear-cut position regarding our adherence to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their national soil, including their right to establish their own independent state, more than 2 years before the Rabat summit resolution. This will be our position until the Palestinian people achieve their complete national goals, God willing.

The relationship of the West Bank with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in light of the PLO's call for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, can be confined to two considerations. First, the principled consideration pertaining to the issue of Arab unity as a pan-Arab aim, to which the hearts of the Arab peoples aspire and which they want to achieve. Second, the political consideration pertaining to the extent of the Palestinian struggle's gain from the continuation of the legal relationship of the Kingdom's two banks. Our answer to the question now stems from these two considerations and the background of the clear-cut and firm Jordanian position toward the Palestine question, as we have shown.

Regarding the principled consideration, Arab unity between any two or more countries is an option of any Arab people. This is what we believe. Accordingly, we responded to the wish of the Palestinian people's representatives for unity with Jordan in 1950. From this premise, we respect the wish of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to secede from us as an independent Palestinian state. We say that while we fully understand the situation. Despite this, Jordan will continue to take pride in carrying the message of the Great Arab Revolt, adhering to its principles, believing in the one Arab destiny, and abiding by the joint Arab action.

Regarding the political consideration, since the June 1967 aggression we have believed that our action and efforts should be directed at liberating the land and the sanctities from Israeli occupation. Therefore, we have concentrated all our efforts, over the past 21 years of occupation, on that goal. We did not imagine that maintaining the legal and administrative relationship between the two banks could constitute an obstacle to liberating the occupied Palestinian land. Hence, in the past and before we took measures, we did not find anything requiring such measures, especially since our support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination was clear.

Of late, it has become clear that there is a general Palestinian and Arab orientation which believes in the need to highlight the Palestinian identity in full in all efforts and activities that are related to the Palestine question and its developments. It has also become obvious that there is a general conviction that maintaining the legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank—and the consequent special Jordanian treatment of the brother Palestinians living under occupation through Jordanian institutions in the occupied territories—goes against this orientation. It would be an obstacle to the Palestinian struggle which seeks to win international support for the Palestine question, considering that it is a just national issue of a people struggling against foreign occupation.

In view of this orientation, which was bound to stem from a purely Palestinian desire and an unflinching Arab determination to support the Palestine question, we have a duty to favorably respond to its requirements. First and last, we are part of our nation and we are eager to support its causes, foremost among which is the Palestine question. Since there is unanimous conviction that the struggle for liberating the occupied Palestinian territory can be bolstered by disengaging the legal and administrative relationship between the two banks, then we must perform our duty and do what is required of us.

As we favorably responded to the appeals made to us by Arab leaders at the Rabat summit of 1974 which asked us to continue to deal with the occupied West Bank through Jordanian institutions to support the steadfastness of brethren there, we today favorably respond to the desire of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and also to the Arab orientation regarding consecrating the purely Palestinian identity in all of its elements in terms of form and content. We beseech God to make this step of ours a qualitative addition to the growing struggle being waged by the Palestinian people for the sake of attaining liberation and independence.

Brother citizens, these are the reasons, the considerations, and the convictions that prompted us to respond favoraly to the PLO's desire and to the general Arab orientation which is in harmony with this desire, as we cannot continue to maintain this undecided situation which serves neither Jordan nor the Palestine question. We had to go out of the tunnel of fears and doubts to the atmosphere of tranquillity and clarity where mutual confidence flourishes and blossoms into understanding, cooperation, and affection in favor of the Palestine question and also in favor of Arab unity—which will remain a cherished objective sought and demanded by all Arab peoples.

However, it should be clear that our measures regarding the West Bank are connected only with the Palestinian territory and its people, and not the Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. All of them have citizenship rights and commitments just like any other citizen regardless of his origin.

They are an integral part of the Jordanian state to which they belong, on whose soil they live, and in whose life and various activities they participate. Jordan is not Palestine and the independent Palestinian state will be established on the occupied Palestinian territory after its liberation, God willing. On this territory the Palestinian identity will be embodied and the Palestinian struggle will blossom as confirmed by the blessed uprising of the Palestinian people under occupation.

If national unity in any country is dear and precious, it is for us in Jordan more than that. It is the basis of our stability and the cause of our development and prosperity as well as the foundation of our national security and the source of our faith in the future. It is also a living embodiment of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt which we inherited and whose banner we are proudly carrying. It is also a living example of constructive plurality and a sound nucleus for any formula of a more comprehensive Arab unity. Based on this, safeguarding national unity is a sacred matter that will not be compromised. Any attempt to tamper with it under any slogan will only help the enemy carry out its expansionist policy at the expense of Palestine and Jordan alike. Consequently, true nationalism and genuine pan-Arabism lie in bolstering and strengthening national unity. Moreover, the responsibility to safeguard it falls on every one of you. There should be no room among us for a slanderer or a traitor. With God's help, we shall always be one cohesive family whose members are joined by bonds of brotherhood, affection, awareness, and the common national and pan-Arab objectives.

Perhaps the most important thing to remember as we stress the need to preserve national unity is that the stable, productive communities are those in which order and dsicipline prevail. Discipline is the solid fabric that binds all people in a solid, harmonious structure that blocks all avenues before the enemies and opens the horizons of hope for the coming generations.

The constructive plurality which Jordan has been practicing since its establishment and through which it is witnessing progress and prosperity in all aspects of life, does not only increase our belief in the sacredness of national unity, but also in the importance of Jordan's pan-Arab role by presenting itself as a living example of the merger of various Arab groups on its soil within the framework of a good citizenship and one Jordanian people. This example, which we are experiencing on our soil, is the one which gives us confidence in the inevitability of attaining Arab unity, God willing.

If we closely examine the spirit of the age, we will see that self-assertion does not conflict with the achievement of institutional unity formulas that include all Arabs. There are living and existing examples in foreign countries.

Perhaps the clearest example is the EC, which now seeks to achieve political European unity after it has succeeded in achieving economic integration among its members. As it known, the ties, relations, and basic elements that connect the Arabs are much greater than those connecting the European peoples.

O citizens, brother Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory, in order to eliminate any doubts that would be cast on our measures, we would like to stress to you that these measures do not mean the relinquishment of our pan-Arab duty toward the Arab-Israeli conflict or the Palestine question. These measures also do not mean a relinquishment of our belief in Arab unity. We have basically taken these measures, as I said, in response to the wish of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and in response to the prevailing Arab conviction that such measures would contribute to supporting the Palestinian people's struggle and their blessed uprising.

Jordan will continue to support the Palestinian people's steadfastness and their valiant uprising in the occupied Palestinian territory within the limtis of its capabilities. I will not forget to say that when we decided to cancel the Jordanian development plan in the occupied territories, at the same time we managed to contact the various friendly governments and the international institutions that expressed their desire to contribute to the plan. We urged them to continue to finance development projects in the occupied Palestinian territory through the concerned Palestinian circles.

Brothers, Jordan has not relinquished and will not relinquish its support for the Palestinian people until they achieve their national objectives, God willing. No one outside Palestine has ever had or will ever have connection with Palestine or with its cause that is stronger than the connection of Jordan or my family with it. This is on the one hand. On the other hand, Jordan is a conrfrontation state, and its border with Israel is longer than that of any other Arab state.

In fact, Jordan's border with Israel is longer than the borders of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip together with it. Jordan also will not relinquish its commitment to participation in the peace process. We contributed to the efforts to achieve an international unanimity on holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East to reach a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and to reach a settlement of all aspects of the Palestine qeustion. We have defined our stands in this regard, as everyone knows, through the six principles that we previously announced to the public. Jordan, brethren, is a basic party to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process. It shoulders its national and pan-Arab responsibilities accordingly.

I thank you and I repeat my heartfelt wishes to you, beseeching Almighty God to help us, guide us, make us please Him, and to grant our Palestinian brothers victory and success. He is the best of helpers.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

King Husayn Dissolves House of Representatives

JN3007145188 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Amman, 30 Jul (PETRA)—The following royal decree has been issued:

We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Article 34 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

The House of Representative will be dissolved as of 30 July 1988.

[Signed] Husayn ibn Talal

Further on Dissolution

JN3007130488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] An authorized Jordanian source in Amman has said that King Husayn has decided to dissolve the Jordanian House of Representatives, half of which consists of deputies who represent the occupied West Bank. The source added that the official announcement of the dissolution of the House will be issued this afternoon. The Jordanian monarch is also expected to cancel the portfolio of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs. Here is a dispatch from Randa Habib, our correspondent in the Jordanian capital:

[Begin recording] King Husayn of Jordan today dissolved the House of Representatives, which comprises 30 out of 60 deputies representing the occupied West Bank, approximately 48 hours after Jordan canceled the development plan for the occupied Arab territories. This step falls within the framework of Jordan's declared policy, which seeks to delineate its stand toward the Palestine question, while maintaining its status and continuing to shoulder its responsibilities as a confrontation state that is a party to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Political quarters in Amman confirmed that this step will leave Israel and the United States no choice but to negotiate directly with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Furthermore, this step falls within the framework of the endeavors exerted to entrench Jordan's political line, which was announced in April—the line which was considered by some quarters as a mere tactical maneuver, not a firm strategy. The dissolution of the House of Representatives is expected to be followed by the cancellation of the portfolio of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs. According to these political quarters, all of these measures seek to remove the dominant impression of Jordan-PLO competition and power-sharing with the PLO. The political quarters say that these moves, which are being made by Jordan—the moves about which U.S.

Secretary of State George Shultz was informed by King Husayn during the former's shuttle trips in the region, seek to leave all missions and tasks regarding the representation of the Palestinian people to the PLO.

The uprising being staged in the occupied Arab territories highlighted the desire of the Palestinian people living under occupation to have their say themselves. Perhaps the most important reason Jordan dissolved these institutions, which are related to the West Bank, is to change the prevailing wrong impression among Palestinian quarters and some Arab quarters that any Jordanian effort or contribution in favor of the Palestinian cause is a manifestation of ambition and covetousness regarding the occupied Arab territories. [end recording]

Envoys Informed of Recent Jordanian 'Measures'

JN3007150088 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1432 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Amman, 30 Jul (PETRA)—The chief of the Royal Hashemite Court received ambassadors of the fraternal Arab states today. He handed them special royal messages addressed to their majesties, excellencies, and highnesses the Arab kings, presidents, and amirs. The messages deal with the background, developments, and dimensions of the recent Jordanian measures, including the cancellation of the Jordanian plan for development in the occupied territories in conformity with Jordan's consistent stand toward the Palestine question and in harmony with the Arab attitude—which prevailed in the Algiers summit—and also in response to the PLO's desire to enable the latter to shoulder all of its responsibilities.

Royal messages have also been handed to ambassadors of the permanent Security Council member states. The messages are addressed to the heads of state of the United States, the USSR, the PRC, the United Kingdom, and France. His Majesty King Husayn has also addressed royal messages to the Japanese Government and the head of the European Community urging the fraternal states to continue supporting and financing the development projects in the occupied territories through the concerned Palestinian institutions.

Al-Rifa'i Interviewed on House Dissolution, PLO

LD0108075788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jul 88 pp 1, 2

[Nasr al-Majali and Zaki Musa report: "Zayd al-Rifa'i Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 'Decisive Measures Next Week in Implementing Palestinian and Arab Wishes'"]

[Excerpts] London—Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has announced that next week will witness decisive developments at the level of Jordanian-Palestinian relations and rearrangement of Jordanian internal affairs. In a telephone conversation with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in London from his home in Amman, he said: Any measures we take will be in accordance with the wishes of the PLO, the Arab brothers, and our own wishes, and will be aimed at projecting the Palestinian identity and confirming the reality of PLO representation of the Palestinian people.

Referring to reports about the possible dissolution of the Jordanian House of Representatives, half of whose members are from the West Bank on the basis of the 1951 unity between the two banks, Al-Rifa'i said: "Actually I am in no position to confirm that, because this a constitutional matter that falls within the framework of top-level decisions." He added: "You will have to wait until next week, which will be decisive regarding any possible measures."

The Jordanian prime minister emphasized that any decision will not run counter to the present continuous Jordanian support for the Palestinian people's steadfastness in their current uprising. He was answering claims from occupied Jerusalem that the probable changes would mean Jordan abandoning the West Bank and putting pressure on the PLO to cooperate with Jordan in the future.

According to a REUTER report from Jerusalem, "many Palestinians on the West Bank said they were unhappy about the measures Amman might take." [Passage omitted]

Referrring to reports about a possible Jordanian-Palestinian summit conference in the near future, Zayd al-Rifa'i said that King Husayn had invited Yasir 'Arafat to visit Jordan "and we expect the visit to take place soon. We welcome 'Arafat in Amman any time for talks."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the expected Jordanian-Palestinian talks, likely to be held after the Jordanian measures, will focus on "laying down new terms of understanding and joint work in the future in the context of the moves to establish peace in the Middle East and solve the Palestinian problem."

The anticipated Jordanian measures include, apart from dissolving the House of Representatives—which would also mean suspension of the Senate sessions—the announcement of a Consultative Council similar to the council which existed in 1977-1983, in which appointments were by royal decree, with the various popular, trade union, and professional groups being represented. [Passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf—Abu Iyad—has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that 'Arafat will visit the Jordanian capital in the 1st week of August after the meetings of the Palestinian Central Council in Baghdad at the end of this month. Abu Iyad said that a PLO Executive Committee delegation headed by Mahmud 'Abbas—Abu Mazin—and including Muhammad Milhim and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, who live in Amman, will pave the way for the visit.

The Fatah Central Committee member said that during the visit a formula for future Palestinian-Jordanian cooperation will be drafted in the light of the latest developments in the region and the continuing popular revolution of our people in the occupied territory.

The Palestinian official confirmed that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are good, that there should be no tension between the two sides, and that understanding should govern these relations.

Information Minister Interviewed on PLO Ties

JN3007115988 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0950 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Interview with Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah by WAM correspondent in Amman, Muhammad al-Muhtasib, carried in the "News Reports" program: recorded—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Muhtasib] We welcome Jordanian Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah on behalf of the listeners of Abu Dhabi radio. The question that should be posed now, particularly following the cancellation of the Jordanian development plan for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is: What comes after this step? Are there other steps? Before discussing this, we would like you to clarify the objective of this cancellation at this time.

[Al-Khasawinah] Brother Muhammad, first of all I would like to thank Abu Dhabi radio, and through it I would like to convey my best wishes to our Arab people in the UAE and to the Jordanian and Palestinian Arab people who reside in Abu Dhabi.

With respect to the objective of the [Jordanian] statement, it has been made only in response to the repeated requests by our brothers in the PLO. Certainly, you and all the Arab citizens have heard the statement made by brother Faruq Qaddumi welcoming this Jordanian move. This move has been made in response to the request of the brothers in the PLO. We, in Jordan, and His Majesty King Husayn, adopt a pan-Arab policy.

[Al-Muhtasib] Your Excellency, the question that is posed is whether the cancellation of the plan will enhance and confirm the PLO's sole representation of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Khasawinah] The truth is that we did not discuss whether this will enhance the PLO's status or not. We have sensed that this is a unanimous Palestinian national demand.

[Al-Muhtasib] Reports say that the Jordanian Parliament will be dissolved and that a new cabinet will be formed on Tuesday. Is this true?

[Al-Khasawinah] Brother Muhammad, this issue is very important and is similar to when we discussed matters pertaining to our honor and to the most sacred Arab cause. News agencies deviate from the issue by discussing marginal matters. All there was to it was that since the Algiers summit we have been trying to eliminate all points that create any suspicions with respect to the brothers in the PLO, such as the question that Jordan competes with them here and there. We will eliminate all these points to maintain the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship as clear as possible and to affirm that the PLO is the only party which represents the Palestinian people and defends their causes, and that Jordan supports the struggle of the PLO and that of the Palestinian people from a pan-Arab position and commitment enhanced by the special historical relationship existing between the sons of the two people. A study is being made of all the institutions and issues from which the enemy may benefit or which could instigate suspicions and cast doubts. We will end all this and will focus on establishing the relationship on sound bases.

[Al-Muhtasib] Your Excellency Dr Hani al-Khasawinah, what topics will be discussed if Yasir 'Arafat arrives in Amman?

[Al-Khasawinah] Matters will be easier and more sound. We will hold talks with brother Yasir 'Arafat in a brotherly manner. We will always proceed from our pan-Arab concept and from the well-known responsible stand His Majesty has always adopted on this cause. His majesty has inherited the responsibility for this cause from his family and from his great experience in the service of his country. We will always be ready to serve any pan-Arab cause, particularly this sacred cause, the cause of Palestine, the tribulation of our people, and the tribulation of the kinfolks' uprising.

[Al-Muhtasib] Your Excellency, do you believe that in light of these measures the Jordanian role in the peace process will change?

[Al-Khasawinah] No. This role is a firm one. We are a party to Resolution 242. At the same time, Jordan is a party to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is a major party and concerned with the peace process, with ending the Palestinian people's tribulation, and with working to have their rights recognized. For this reason, Jordan's role is firm and continues to exist.

[Al-Muhtasib] Do you believe that this stand will enhance the idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation?

[Al-Khasawinah] Brother Muhammad, the truth is that we leave such matters to the circumstances. We feel that this measure enhanced the sound march and relationship between us and the PLO. The circumstances engulfing the struggle of the Palestinian people are complicated and ever-changing. We view the Palestinian cause as a pan-Arab cause to which we are eternally committed. We are ready to adjust our stands in accordance with the developments which may serve the Palestinian cause.

[Al-Muhtasib] At the conclusion of this interview, we thank Jordanian Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah on behalf of the listeners of Abu Dhabi radio for this clarification.

On West Bank Policy Change

JN0108103688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1004 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Aug (WAKH)—Jordanian Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah has said that the objective of the Jordanian decision to disengage legal and administrative relationship between Jordan and the occupied West Bank is to end forever the sensitivity between Jordan and the PLO with regard to the future of the occupied territory. In a statement to Kuwait AL-QABAS published today, Dr Al-Khasawinah added that coordination between his country and the PLO will continue to tackle all issues which will result from the distinguished relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

The Joranian minister added that the Jordanians of Palestinian origin in the West Bank who carry Jordanian passports and receive wages from Jordan will continue to receive these wages. He added that the Jordanians of Palestinian origin residing outside Jordan are considered citizens and have rights and commitments.

On Jordan's stand on the peace settlement, Dr Al-Khasawinah reiterated his country's conditions on the need for Israel's complete withddrawal from the occupied Arab territory and for the PLO's presence at the proposed international conference. The Jordanian official affirmed that his country is a basic party to the Arab-Israeli conflict and that Jordan will accept what the PLO will accept with regard to the future of the occupied territory in the final settlement.

'Responsible' Source Discusses West Bank Measures

JN0108135488 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1330 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] A responsible Jordanian Government source said in Amman this afternoon that King Husayn has decided to abandon Jordan's responsibility for all the government services in the West Bank. In an interview with the AP correspondent in Amman, the source, who declined to reveal his name, added that King Husayn's decision means a complete estrangement between Jordan and the West Bank.

The source explained that King Husayn's speech means that Jordan is no longer responsible for the provision of any services in the West Bank. The Jordanian Government source said that Jordan is no longer responsible for municipalities and health, social, educational, religious, and cultural sectors in the West Bank.

However, the source explained that Jordan will continue to pay salaries to the employees and teachers who were appointed by the Jordanian Government over the past 35 years. The source said that the new Jordanian Government that will be formed will be the one that will make decisions and measures with respect to ending the legal and administrative relationship between Jordan and the West Bank.

Release of Waite, European Hostages 'Very Soon'

NC3007072588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Jul (MENA)—A leading Islamic fundamentalist source in Lebanon has revealed that one West German and three British hostages held in Beirut will be released very soon. The British hostages are Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, journalist John McCarthy, and Irish teacher Brian Keenan. The German hostage is Rudolf Cordes.

The leading Islamic source, who is taking part in ongoing secret exchanges for the release of the foreign hostages in Lebanon, has told the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD that these exchanges are being conducted between Tehran and the kidnappers in Lebanon on one hand and London and Bonn on the other. The same source, according to the paper, added that these secret exchanges have made good and positive strides. He noted that when these four hostages are released the dossier of the European hostages in Lebanon will finally be closed.

Meanwhile, the source affirmed that the release of the eight U.S. hostages is not now under discussion, noting that this issue will be postponed for a long time because it is directly linked with the implementation of what the source described as Washington's hostile policy toward Tehran.

Musawi: Higgins 'Arrested' While Spying

NC3107160888 Paris AFP in English 1550 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Mashgharah, Lebanon, July 31 (AFP)—The pro-Iranian Hizballah group said here Sunday that Colonel William Higgins, an American U.N. officer kidnapped in Lebanon six months ago, was a spy.

A shadowy Moslem fundamentalist group called the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth had claimed responsibility for Col. Higgins' abduction, which the United Nations Security Council condemned on Friday. Col Higgins had been commanding a group of U.N. observers in southern Lebanon.

Shaykh 'Abbas Musawi, a leader of the Shi'ite Moslem group Hizballah, or party of God, told a 3,000-strong rally in the Syrian-controlled Al-Biqa' Valley that "everyone knows that when arrested, Col Higgins was on a spying mission against Hizballah." Shaykh Musawi said "we would have preferred that the Security Council condemn, even if only for once, Israel's repeated attacks against southern Lebanon." He said the U.S. press and President Ronald Reagan had admitted that Col. Higgins was a spy, adding that "the arrest of this spy is part of the struggle of this region's sons to defend their existence and honour." Shaykh Musawi said Col. Higgins had been "arrested by the oppressed of southern Lebanon."

Presidential Elections Scheduled for 16 Aug

NC3107112588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] In response to a question from Lebanon Radio, a prominent religious source has ruled out a possible constitutional vacuum, stressing that the election of a new president is definite. The religious source predicted that the Chamber of Deputies' session to elect the new president will be on 16 August and proceed calmly. He revealed that the name of the future president was agreed to and entered into the presidential file 1 and ½ months before the start of the constitutional deadline period.

The source affirmed that following their bitter experiences, today all Lebanese oppose a president of slogans who, instead of working for salvation, will work for the ruin of Lebanon, because the coming stage is a difficult and delicate one and there is no room for underhanded dealings or bargaining.

Al-Jumayyil Comments on Election Issues

PM2907141588 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 27 Jul-3 Aug 88 pp 12-13

[Muwaffaq Daftardar Madani report: "Al-Jumayyil Tells AL-MAJALLAH: Franjiyah Is a Maneuver Candidate"]

[Excerpts] Beirut—It is still rumored in Lebanese and other circles that Lebanon's current president, Amin al-Jumayyil, will be Lebanon's next president with his term extended for 2 more years if presidential elections become impossible to hold. Amin al-Jumayyil sometimes denies this and sometimes he accepts it "if it is in Lebanon's interest." It is difficult to talk with President al-Jumayyil because he is accountable for every word he says.

How does Amin al-Jumayyil view the next presidential phase? How does he view Lebanon's future in the light of U.S.-Syrian contacts? Who, in his view, will be Lebanon's next president? AL-MAJALLAH went to B'abda palace and came back with a careful reading of the thoughts of the Lebanese president, whose term of office ends 23 September. [passage omitted]

A source close to the president said, on his behalf, that the president does not consider Syria's support for the nomination of [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah for the presidency to be final and that it might ultimately be a tactical bargaining ploy.

President al-Jumayyil regards the recent reports about the possible extension of his presidential term as mere rumors initiated by Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri as a political maneuver in his circles. He insists that he will not stay in power even 1 minute after his term ends 23 September.

In reply to AL-MAJALLAH's questions, conveyed to him through close officials, as to whether or not the B'abda-Damascus contacts were still continuing, President al-Jumayyil said: During Minister Joseph al-Hashim's visit to Damascus and meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, it was agreed to maintain contacts with a view to crystallizing the issues under consideration, especially the constitutional election date. It is useful to confirm in this connection that the contacts between us and the Syrian leadership have not stopped, although nothing new has been achieved. [passage omitted]

President al-Jumayyil believes that the U.S. role is still continuing and that the U.S. initiative is still valid. He emphasizes that the Syrian-Lebanese direct contacts do not mean that the U.S. role has been ruled out or given up. That is why he has summoned Lebanese Ambassador in Washington 'Abdallah Abu Habib to Beirut for consultation on the U.S. position and results of Syrian-Lebanese contacts.

On reports that during their Damascus talks Minister Joseph al-Hashim and the Syrian officials drew specific conclusions regarding security arrangements related to the forthcoming presidential elections and qualities needed in a presidential candidate, President al-Jumayyil said that Minister al-Hashim's talks in Damascus focused mainly on the qualities of the next president without mentioning the names of candidates. [passage omitted]

President al-Asad did not mention to Al-Hashim any names of possible presidential candidates, and Al-Hashim himself was not authorized to mention names. All that happened was that President al-Asad indicated the following as qualities which the next president should have:

1. The next president should be a compromise president acceptable to all sides.

2. He should be on good terms with all Lebanese sides.

3. He should be strong and able to resolve the Lebanese crisis, not just manage it.

President al-Jumayyil is of the opinion that Syria believes that the next phase will be crucial, necessitating a president who can end the crisis. President al-Asad made a point of repeating to Minister al-Hashim three times the qualities he thinks the next president should have, as if to confirm that Syria has no candidate of its own. [passage omitted]

President al-Jumayyil stressed that if by September the presidential elections cannot take place then a transitional government may be formed.

He expressed hope of reaching an agreement with President al-Asad ensuring that the next president will be a president of consensus and reconciliation, because any other kind of president will be a president who would defy one party or another.

The president emphasized that he views the future security situation with some concern because of the changes that have occurred in the Palestinian camps in Beirut and the departure of the Palestinians for Sidon. He says: These security developments are a cause of concern to us because we fear that concentration of 'Arafat's supporters in one area would lead to military campaigns by Israel and its allies, which would affect Beirut and consequently the presidential elections. That is why we urge containment of the negative aspects of the Palestinian camps situation so that we can tackle that situation.

Finally, President al-Jumayyil stressed that what is being said about possible renewal of his term is nothing but unfounded rumors and that he would not stay in office 1 minute after his term expires, nor would he leave 1 minute before.

Al-Jumayyil Addresses Forces on Army Day

NC0108102588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil has asserted that the best way to handle the constitutional elections is through an unquestionable, free, and unified Lebanese decision arising from Lebanon and embodying only the national conscience and Lebanese higher interests, nothing else.

In a speech delivered in Al-Yarzi [Defense Ministry headquarters] marking Army Day, Al-Jumayyil said that the serious stage is over and that developments are moving positively. He added: I was hoping that when we met today we could have already achieved the desired salvation, hoisting the Lebanese flag over every inch of the homeland full of pride that we had delivered the message and done our required nationalist duty.

The president said: If in these difficult 6 years we failed to find a favorable opportunity for a solution, it was because strong winds were blowing against state institutions. Confronting these winds averted more serious consequences, and we are able to protect state institutions from destruction.

The president asserted that no army in the world, regardless of its strength, could have withstood and maintained its ability to stand fast on the frontline in the face of the situation in which the Lebanese Army found itself: face-to-face with partition attempts, campaigns aimed at casting doubts and impeding the decisionmaking process, a state of division between the people and the land, and the presence of foreign forces.

The president said that because the Army had on occasion had to withdraw and failed to fulfill its full responsibility, a number of regions had paid dearly. The causes which led to this withdrawal were later uncovered, he noted.

Chamber Speaker al-Husayni Leaves for Damascus

NC3007061088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni left for Damascus this morning.

He is expected to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and certainly with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah.

Returns From Damascus

NC3107185688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni tonight returned to Beirut from Damascus where he held discussions with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the constitutional deadline in Lebanon.

Birri Insists on Accord Prior to Election

NC2907143988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] During a press conference today, Amal Movement Leader Minister Nabih Birri said that the constitutional deadline must not pass without a formula for accord first being reached. He added: We cannot accept any election on the basis of the old system. Quite frankly, it will then be an honor to obstruct such an election in every way we can. Maintaining the old system and carrying out transactions at home and abroad would mean extending the occupation from the South to all parts of the country. Accord prior to the election is part of the resistance.

Fadlallah, Sha'ban Praise Iranian Decision on War

LD3007224188 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Beirut, July 30, IRNA—Islamic Iran has thwarted the conspiracies of global arrogance by accepting the Security Council Resolution 598, said al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah.

The prominent Lebanese alim in his Friday prayer sermon in southern Beirut, said that world oppressors and colonialists had unsuccessfully tried to impose economic sanctions and military pressures on Iran, but the Islamic Republic's acceptance of the resolution bewildered all those who were trying to accuse Iran of being a war-monger.

He called Iran's move a tactical change in its campaign against oppressors and international Zionism. He reminded that Islam lays emphasis on making wise decisions according to the time and circumstances and added that the Iranian move has been recognised as perfectly timed.

In another part of his sermons, al-'Allama Fadlallah called for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. fleets from the Persian Gulf noting that Iran's plan, according to which only littoral states will safeguard Persian Gulf waters without the interference of foreigners, is the best way to ensure and guarantee shipping in the region.

On Lebanon's presidential elections, he said that presidents who are imposed on the people by colonialist outsiders could never solve problems and would only increase them.

Meanwhile, the Friday prayers in Tripoli, northern Lebanon were led by Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban who denounced the treacheries of reactionary Arab rulers labelling them as 'neo-Jahiliyya.' He advised them to desist from their ominious schemes which are all at the service of [the] enemy. He added the Islamic ummah can never ignore the treachery of these reactionary Arab rulers who, he said, are busy trying to protect and ensure the survival of Zionism at the expense of Islam.

The Sunni theologian said Iran's acceptance of ceasefire did not mean a deviation from Islamic ideals. On the contrary this wise move stops an imposed war on Muslims, and enables genuine Islam to continue its campaign, he said, adding, the Islamic Revolution of Iran will intensify its support for the oppressed and deprived.

On current developments in Lebanon and arrogance's efforts to bring another Christian Maronite president into office, he said the Maronites know nothing but hegemony and violating the rights of Muslims.

Thus a regime with its dark record of discrimination, massacre and treason against Muslims can never be accepted by the people. From the rational and religious points of view, nomination for presidency of such flunkeys who are at the service of their Zionist masters is not permissible, he concluded.

Iranian Charge Meets With Fadlallah, Others

LD2907194788 Tehran IRNA in English 1812 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Beirut, July 29, IRNA—Iran's charge d'affaires in Beirut conferred with some Lebanese political and religious figures on important isues of mutual interest.

The Iranian official held talks separately with Al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Vice-President of Supreme Islamic Shi'a Assembly Muhammad Mahdi

Shams al-Din, and head of Amal Movement Nabih Birri on current issues in Lebanon and regional developments including recent Iraqi crimes in its war with the Islamic Republic.

At the meetings, the two sides stressed the need for backing the Islamic Republic's righteous stand for countering the atrocities of the Baghdad regime.

The Iranian charge d'affaires said at these meetings emphasis had been placed on the need for on all-out backing of Lebanese Muslim Mujahidin in their campaign against the Zionist regime.

Amal Accused of Arresting 30 Fundamentalists

NC0108055588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Hizballah yesterday accused the Amal Movement of arresting 30 fundamentalists in the towns of Bra'shit, Qabrikha, Sil'a, Al-Majadil, Al-Sharqiyah, Al-Numayriyah, and Shaqra.

Hizballah issued a statement holding Amal leader Minister Nabih Birri responsible for the continuation of these spiteful practices, which bear Israel's imprint and express the latter's plots and objective of exhausting the resistance and stabbing its fighters in the back.

Fatah Official Escapes Assassination Attempt

NC2907191588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1845 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Amin Kayid, an official of the pro-'Arafat Fatah Movement, has escaped an assassination attempt in an armed ambush in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in Sidon. According to a security source, the abortive attempt led to tension among the Palestinians in the camp.

2 Wounded Syrians Die; Airport Clash Reported

NC2907171188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] The two Syrian soldiers who were wounded by gunfire in the Corniche al-Mazra'ah area of West Beirut yesterday died today.

Meanwhile, a dispute erupted between Syrian personnel and security forces and Beirut airport security forces over the sharing of authority at the airport. The dispute led to an exchange of fire, after which three members of the internal security forces were beaten up.

The incident was contained after the interior minister held consultations.

8 Injured

NC3007061188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Eight people were injured in an attack by Syrian occupation forces on Lebanese security forces at Beirut airport yesterday following a dispute that developed into a firefight.

Security sources reported that when a dispute erupted between Syrian intelligence men and internal security personnel in the passengers' lounge, Lebanese security personnel were beaten. The internal security forces intervened to contain the incident, but Syrian intelligence men beat up two of them and opened fire, causing a number of injuries.

Syrian Soldier Killed in Southern Suburb

NC3107060388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] According to security reports today, a clash broke out between a number of gunmen and Syrian troops in the Al-Laylakah area in the southern suburb yesterday morning. A Syrian soldier was killed. When the soldier's body was discovered there were intensive bursts of gunfire, and the Syrians made a show of force in the areas of Hayy al-Sullum, Al-Laylakah, the Science College, and Al-Murayjah.

Meanwhile, the fate of Pierre and Ilyas Hanna, who were kidnapped by the Syrian occupation forces in Al-Musharrafiyah in the southern suburb yesterday, is still unknown.

PSP Involved in 'Violent' Clashes in 'Alayh

NC2907194788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Violent clashes involving the use of artillery and machineguns have been raging between gunmen of the PSP and others belonging to families in Ba'lshmayh and Ru'aysat al-Ballut in the 'Alayh area since this afternoon.

In a similar development, a clash took place between armed groups, whose affiliation could not be determined, in Ba'labakk at 1900 today. The Syrian forces are holding consultations in a bid to halt the clashes and end the tension.

4 Killed, 3 Injured 29 Jul

NC3007130988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] The situation in the areas of Ba'lshmayh and Ru'aysat al-Ballut is now very tense in the wake of yesterday's clashes, in which four persons were killed and three others injured. It was reported at noon today that machinegun fire has been exchanged there and that the 'Alayh-Ba'lshmayh-Bhamdun road is cut. PSP sources have accused foreign elements of fomenting the incidents.

In another development, Syrian occupation forces found a Grad rocket 300 meters from a Syrian position in the Ba'labakk area this morning. The occupation forces immediately cut off roads in the area.

Fighting Continues 30 Jul

NC3007185888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Attempts by Druze shaykhs to contain the tension in the 'Alayh area have failed. Clashes between the Abu Farraj and Zaydan families resumed this afternoon. Machineguns and rockets were used in the fighting.

Fighting Resumes 31 Jul

NC3107082888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Violent clashes are currently raging in Ru'aysat al-Ballut and Ba'lshmayh. Yesterday's fighting left five people dead, including a PSP official from the Abu Farraj clan.

Amal-Palestinian Clashes Reported East of Sidon

NC3007162488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Clashes occurred between Palestinians and Amal Movement members in Maghdushah, in the hills surrounding Mariya, Al-Miyah wa Miyah, and 'Ayn al-Hulwah, and in the Sirub hills in the past few hours.

Amal sources said the clashes took place because the Palestinians were continuing to reinforce their military positions which indicated a possibility of renewed fighting between the two sides.

Resistance Attacks on Lahd Militia Reported

NC3007143088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1406 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] The Lebanese resistance groups—Amal has declared its responsibility for the Tuhrah road operation. In a statement issued today, it said that one of its groups ambushed an agent Lahd militia patrol on the Tuhrah-al-Suwayda' road last night, killing or wounding seven members of the patrol.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese National Resistance Front has declared its responsibility for an attack on a position near Hula jointly held by the Israeli occupation forces and agent Lahd's militia. In addition, another group detonated an explosive device as an agent Lahd militia patrol was passing on the Jazzin main road.

Fishermen Discover Wrecked Unidentified Warplane

NC3007061588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Fishermen have discovered the wreckage of an unidentified military aircraft in the sea off the new Al-Sarafand port. Security sources said the plane is probably an Israeli aircraft shot down during dogfights between Syrian and Israeli Air Forces during the 1982 invasion or previous battles. Two skeletons were found in the plane, which was equipped with a heavy-caliber machinegun.

Amal Movement elements removed the aircraft wreckage to an Amal center in Zifta, where it will be shown to media correspondents soon. Movement sources said that a number of military experts, including British, had asked to go to the South to inspect the plane.

Reportedly British WWII Plane

NC3007193788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Security sources in southern Lebanon have pointed out that the wreckage found in the Al-Sarafand area yesterday is a British aircraft from World War II. The remains of the pilot's corpse were found inside the wrecked warplane, which is believed to have exploded before plunging into the sea.

Al-Asad Addresses Armed Forces on Army Day

JN3107163288 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Damascus, 31 Jul (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad has addressed a speech to the Armed Forces on the 43d anniversary of establishing the Syrian Arab Army. He asserted Syria will remain a rock of steadfastness and a vanguard of liberation and will keep its head raised while being impregnable and capable of making enemy plots backfire.

In his speech to the Armed Forces, addressed through the magazines JAYSH AL-SHA'B and AL-JUNDI AL-'ARABI, the president said: On this honorable day, I am pleased to greet you on behalf of our people's masses and in my own name and also to congratulate you on your Army Day. I am also pleased to bless your achievements last year and to express the leadership's satisfaction with your accomplishements in terms of the great progress in the fields of traning, preparedness, and the acquisition of new experience on the ground, in the air, and at sea. Moreover, I am pleased to assert that your daily efforts in your various positions and sites of deployment are appreciated.

The president reviewed the series of glorious deeds carried out by our Armed Forces. These deeds were recorded with pride in the history of our forces' continued struggle. The president said: These glorious deeds included helping and supporting the brothers and confronting the Zionist enemy forces to liberate the land and undermine the occupation and aggression, which were achieved by our valiant Armed Forces in the [1973] October war and the war of attrition. They also included confronting the invasion and foiling its objectives, which were achieved during the Zionist invasion of Lebanon.

Also addressing our Armed Forces, President al-Asad added: We should not forget for a single moment that the Zionist occupation still exists, that the Zionist aggression is continuing, and that the enemy is killing peace in the name of peace and doing its utmost to impose capitulation on the Arab nation.

The president also referred to those who have followed the line of imperialism and Zionism. He said those whose determination has collapsed and who thought by offering concessions and throwing themselves in the enemy's arms they could achieve liberation will be remorseful when it is too late to be so. What Al-Sadat did as well, as the disgrace and fate he brought to himself, should be an eloquent lesson for them.

Concluding his speech, the president greeted our kinfolk in the Golan as well as the kinfolk's uprising in occupied Palestine and the resistance heroes in southern Lebanon. He said: Our march will always proceed forward on the road to victory. This road is being lit by the souls of the righteous martyrs who fulfilled their pledges and who struggled and gained the honor of martyrdom. Those martyrs are an example in sacrifice, heroism, and magnanimity, he added.

TISHRIN Cited on Murphy's Forthcoming Tour

JN2907062188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Jul 88

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN comments on Murphy's tour and his new task in the region. The paper says: Why Murphy's tour now after George Shultz has officially announced the suspension of the U.S. efforts and admitted that his efforts have failed? TISHRIN explains that Murphy's forthcoming tour will seek to invigorate U.S. efforts. These efforts continue to be viewed with suspicion and skepticism and continue to be condemned and denounced from the premise of the bitter Arab experience with successive U.S. Administrations and their methods.

The new U.S. move is only an attempt to proceed from the developments which have taken place in the region and to channel them in the service of the joint U.S.-Israeli siege. All indications confirm that Murphy's efforts, in the first place, will be some kind of a direct interference in the developments and an attempt to make these developments serve Washington and its allies in Tel Aviv.

The new U.S. move is also to support those who champion U.S. solutions which complement the Camp David deal and which became manifested through the panting of the deviationist Palestinian right wing after the U.S.-Israeli settlement and through the concessions made by 'Arafat and his clique. These concessions were contained in the so-called Abu Sharif document and in the overt announcement about the readiness to hold direct negotiations that specifically deal with the implementation of the second part of the Camp David deal.

Afghanistan

Security Forces Increased in Southern Kabul
LD3007195488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Quoting HEYWAD, BAKHTAR reports that security posts have been set up in hilly areas in order to safeguard security in southern Kabul. The extremists will then be unable to shell Kabul with missiles.

Prior to the auspicious days of 'Id al-Adha, the extremists deployed two launching units for surface-to-surface missiles in the Asman Qal'eh region. They once again intended to soil their hands with the blood of Kabul citizens. As a result of relentless efforts by security personnel, this treacherous plan was fortunately discovered in time and foiled. Serious measures have now been taken in southern Kabul with the cooperation of the inhabitants to prevent subversive activities by the extremists.

'Extremists' Attack 2 Districts in Kabul
LD3107165588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Criminal extremists committed another crime this morning at 0700 by firing surface-to-surface missiles at the residential areas of districts 4 and 11 of Kabul city.

The BAKHTAR military section reported that as a result of this barbaric act, one of our compatriots was martyred and three others were severely wounded. The wounded were immediately taken to a hospital. Similarly, as a result of the rocket fire, a number of our compatriots' houses have been damaged.

USSR, Kabul Forces Preparing Counteroffensive
OW0108005688 Tokyo KYODO in English 0020 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 31 KYODO—Soviet and Afghan Government forces are preparing a counteroffensive against mujahidin rebel positions close to the Afghan capital from where they have been carrying out rocket attacks on the capital, Western diplomatic sources said Sunday.

The sources reported movement and fresh deployment by the Soviet and Afghan troops in the Qarghah Lake area west of Kabul, toward Meydan Shehr in Vardak Province in the south and on the Salang Highway and Shomali region in the north.

Soviet forces, in conjunction with the Afghan Army, were preparing a major offensive against the mujahidin positions stretching over a 30 kilometer front from Meydan Shehr through Paghman to Shakar Darreh, the sources said, quoting an 'Afghan Government contact.'

Diplomats said a big Soviet force with 60 vehicles was moved out of Kabul on July 29 and deployed near Qarghah Lake in the vicinity of rebel positions at Paghman.

The Salang road was also closed on July 29 to facilitate the movement of troops into Shomali region. The road was still closed Sunday and civilian traffic has piled at the exits to the road, the sources said.

The deployment comes in the wake of deterioration of the Afghan Government position in the Paghman area and the worst-ever series of rocket attacks on Kabul during July, when some 200 rockets crashed into the city killing nearly 100 people.

Western diplomatic sources said that the decision of the Soviets to launch the offensive against mujahidin positions was prompted by rebel pressure on Kabul which was becoming too heavy to be allowed to continue unchecked. Moreover, they said, the Soviets have also realized that government forces alone will not be able to dislodge the rebels from the vicinity of the city.

Meanwhile leading guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar on Sunday warned that the mujahidin will frustrate efforts by the monarchists (supporters of former Afghan monarch Zahir Shah) to impose a government in Kabul through a loya jirgah as proposed by U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez.

Hikmatyar accused Cordovez of working under a conspiracy hatched by the two superpowers to prevent a mujahidin government in Kabul.

Mujahidin Besiege Qandahar; Cut Access to Kabul
BK3107154288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the second largest city of Qandahar has been cut off from Kabul by road due to a siege laid down by the mujahidin from three sides. The mujahidin have also fortified strategic positions on the outskirts and around the city.

Another report says the mujahidin have taken up positions in the Qandahar subdivisions of Arghandab, Shahbagh, (Malaghat), and Arghastan; and Kabul regime aircraft have been forced to take off and land only from the eastern side of the city.

According to reports, the mujahidin shot down a Kabul regime aircraft near the Paghman region. They also attacked military posts in (Sinakai) and Nader Shah Kowt and killed at least 10 soldiers of the Kabul regime.

Mujahidin Shoot Down Helicopter, Take 3 Villages
BK3107064488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] According to reports, the Afghan mujahidin shot down a helicopter of the Najibullah regime in the southern district of Spin Buldak. Fierce fighting has continued in this district for several days.

Other reports say the Afghan mujahidin occupied three villages on the outskirts of Qandahar after several day's fighting.

'Extremist' Leaders, Foreign Advisers Killed
LD3107062888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 30, BAKHTAR—Seven armed extremist groups were crushed in the suburbs of the Provinces of Konarha, Vardak, Lowgar and Nangarhar and a quantity of their arms and munitions fell at the hand of Armed Forces during the past week. Included among the killed persons were four ring-leaders of the extremists groups and three foreign advisors.

The Armed Forces detected a watch mine which was going to be placed by elements attached to extremist groups in the vicinity of the shrine of Imam Saheb in Konduz Province during the 'Id prayers. The perpetators of this cruel act were delivered to the legal bodies for investigations. These murderers had also deployed a quantity of explosive materials in an airport at Pul-e-Mahmoud Khan, Kabul city, which was defused by the Armed Forces.

Likewise, a 260-person group headed by Muhammad Zarif in the suburbs of Herat Province and a 12-person armed group headed by Muhammad Din in the suburbs of Baghlan Province who were engaged in armed activities announced their joining to the policy of national reconciliation.

'Extremist' Rockets Hit Jalalabad; 5 Killed
LD3007172188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] The criminal extremists have perpetrated another treacherous deed, martyring or injuring a number of our compatriots.

The BIA military section reports that the extremist elements fired 34 rockets into residential areas of Wards 1, 2, and 3 of Jalalabad city, Nangarhar Province, martyring 5 of our compatriots, including a 2-year-old child, 2 women, and 2 men and wounding 11. As a result of this criminal action, one residential house was also destroyed.

Iranian Envoy Summoned Over Shootings in Zahedan
LD3007171688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] A source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan reports that the charge d'affaires of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul was summoned to the ministry this morning and asked to explain the massacre of a number of Afghan refugees, including women and children, who are said to have been gunned down by Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the environs of the city of Zahedan. He was asked to obtain information from the relevant authories about this tragic event and to inform the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Protest Made Against 16 Jul Pakistani Shelling
LD3007154488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] A Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman reports that the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon. The following protest was made to him by the ministry's director of the first political section:

The security forces of the Republic of Afghanistan report that at 1800 and 2300 on 16 July, Pakistani militias shelled and damaged the (Muhammad Sa'id) and (Ghash) border posts.

The Republic of Afghanistan therefore lodges a serious protest against such armed violation and attacks by Pakistani militias, and asks the relevant Pakistani authorities to ensure that such irresponsible actions, which further intensify the tense situation, are not repeated. Responsibility for any such incorrect action will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Radioactive Materials Illegally Exported
LD3007130988 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 30 Jul 88

["BIA Announcement"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, 30 Jul (BAKHTAR)—Competent authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan have access to information that a group of foreign citizens has illegally and secretly entered the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan and, with the active assistance and cooperation of individuals belonging to the extremist Gulbuddin group, these foreigners illegally extracted radioactive raw materials and transported them from the Republic of Afghanistan to Pakistan.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has taken the necessary measures to specify the nature of such illegal activities by citizens of foreign countries, as well as to stop such hostile activities.

Bangladesh

Rioting Leaves 2 Dead, 100 Injured 29 Jul

BK3007031088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, 55 members of a right-wing Islamic group were arrested yesterday in the wake of rioting in which 2 young men belonging to a rival opposition party were gunned down and about 100 injured.

The arrests were made in the wake of a strike called by a citizens committee to protest against the killings. Eyewitnesses said angry mobs set fire to public buses, tore down billboards, and set up roadblocks during the strike which shut down the city's [not further specified] textile industry.

Army Officers To Supervise Gulf Cease-Fire

BK3007154988 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Bangladesh Armed Forces officers will be sent to serve in international military team to the Gulf to supervise the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka today the United Nations has formally approached Bangladesh with such a request and Dhaka readily agreed to the proposal since it is in conformity with Bangladesh's consistent policy on the Gulf conflict.

He said Dhaka's acceptance of the proposal is also in keeping with its policy for a cessation of hostilities and a just and durable settlement of the Iran-Iraq problem. This is the first time that Bangladesh has been requested to offer the services of its armed forces in an international peacekeeping endeavor.

The United Nations had earlier approached several nations to send their armed forces personnel to the peacekeeping force to effect a cease-fire in the Gulf.

Opposition Leaders To Defy Expulsion From Party

BK3007171088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1707 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Dhaka, July 31 (AFP)—Six dissident leaders of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) have said they will call a counter-meeting here Friday to challenge an order to expel them.

Their spokesman, Obaidur Rahman, secretary general of the BNP until party leader Begum Khaleda Zia dissolved the party executive committee on June 21, told a press conference Saturday the dissidents "do not accept" the order.

Saturday's press conference was a clear indication that the BNP, founded by former President Ziaur Rahman in 1978, was heading for a split, political analysts said.

Begum Zia was not available for comment on Mr. Rahman's plan to call a counter-meeting but has said in recent interviews that the expulsions and desertions of a few party leaders would not weaken the BNP.

Mr. Obaidur Rahman, a former minister and a founder of the party, said at the press conference he is still party secretary general.

Other expelled leaders at the press conference were former Deputy Prime Minister Jamaluddin Ahmed and former Dhaka Mayor Abdul Hasnat, witnesses said. They were all members of the BNP Central Committee.

Begum Zia, who heads a seven-party BNP-led alliance fighting to oust President Hussain Mohammed Ershad, dissolved two key national BNP committees in a surprise move. No reasons were given.

Mr. Rahman and the other ousted leaders met with supporters on July 15 to question Begum Zia's actions and to urge her to reverse her decision.

In response, Begum Zia, widow of the assassinated former president, General Ziaur Rahman, called for them to justify holding an unauthorized meeting.

She rejected their explanations Wednesday at a party meeting, which also decided to expel the six from the BNP for breaking party discipline.

Mr. Rahman said the dissidents had not yet received formal expulsion letters but added that they had taken note of the fact that the party chief confirmed their explusion to reporters on Thursday.

India

Naxalites Burn Gorbachev, Trotsky Effigies

BK3107104188 Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jul 88 p 6

[Text] Santiniketan, July 19 (UNI)—The supporters of Communist Organisation of India (ML-Marxist-Leninist), Naxalite faction led by Mr Kanu Sanyal, burnt effigies of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Leon Trotsky, whom they described as "notorious counter revolutionaries" at the four-point crossing of Bolpur town today.

Addressing the gathering, party leader Subodh Mitra and Sabuj Sen said that Mr Gorbachev was the "standard bearer of the earlier conspiracy hatched by Khurschev, Kosygin and Brezhnev to denigrate Stalin and distort a glorious chapter of the Soviet history".

The leaders felt that glasnost and perestroika were nothing but instruments for demolishing the gains of Marxism-Leninism.

Policy of Resolving Issues With PRC Reaffirmed
BK2907164888 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] India has reiterated its policy to strive for a peaceful settlement of all outstanding questions with China and to resolve disputes through negotiations.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that in this task, contacts at the political level and talks at the official level are not mutually exclusive. He was responding to a query regarding political-level contacts with China.

The spokesman further said that political-level contacts with China have taken place from time to time. Eight rounds of official-level talks have already been held. The dialogue is an ongoing process. The spokesman said any fresh initiative would depend on the outcome of these initiatives.

Military Officers To Monitor Gulf Cease-Fire
BK3007034488 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] India has agreed to the UN request to make its military officers available to monitor the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq. India's acceptance has been conveyed to the world body.

The UN has approached 26 countries, including India, Bangladesh, and Yugoslavia, to monitor the cease-fire. Each country has been requested to provide 15 officers of the rank of major and above for the UN force of about 250 cease-fire observers.

Patrolling Intensifies Along Bangladesh Border
BK3007092088 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] The Border Security Force [BSF] has reinforced measures to check smuggling and infiltration along the border with Bangladesh in the Cachar-Karimganj sector.

BSF sources in Silchar said that a number of additional border outposts and observatory towers have been constructed and round the clock patrolling intensified.

The sources said during the last 6 months smuggled goods worth over 14 lakh rupees were seized and 68 smugglers apprehended.

New Delhi Official Resigns Over Cholera Outbreak
BK3007043788 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr H.L. Kapoor, has resigned. He tendered his resignation accepting moral responsibility for the deaths due to cholera and gastroenteritis in Delhi. A spokesman of the Home Ministry said in New Delhi last evening that three senior officials of the Delhi administration have been transferred. Three others have been placed under suspension.

A review meeting by the prime minister in New Delhi yesterday afternoon found serious lapses in the fulfillment of targets set for the removal of garbage, clearing of drains and septic tanks, and functioning of water pipelines at various places in the resettlement colonies. The prime minister expressed his dissatisfaction over the functioning of various agencies entrusted with these tasks. [passage omitted]

6-Day Gujarat Police Strike Ends 29 Jul
BK2907165088 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] In Gujarat, the 6-day police strike has ended. All police stations in the state functioned normally today. The home secretary told our Ahmadabad correspondent that the strike was almost over yesterday itself when most of the police stations functioned with normal attendance.

Few police stations, which remained partly affected, started functioning today. He said the state government has already suspended all the four police unions and they will be completely derecognized as soon as legal procedures already initiated are over.

The chief minister, Mr Amarsinh Chaudhari, said in Ahmadabad that the genuine demands of policemen would be considered sympathetically. He, however, made it clear that the issue of dismissed policemen will not be negotiated. In all, 26 policemen were arrested under the National Security Act and about 100 dismissed from service.

13 Congress-I Members in Nagaland Resign
BK3107080888 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Thirteen Congress-I MLA's [members of legislative assembly] have resigned from the Nagaland legislative assembly as well as from the pradesh [state] Congress-I committee.

They have alleged that the state government has failed to work up to the expectations. The resigned MLA's have formed a new party called the Congress Regional Nagaland. This has reduced the strength of the party to 21 in the 60-member House.

'Political Crisis' Develops

BK3107161288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Excerpts] A political crisis in Nagaland has developed with 4 independents joining the 13 Congress-I MLA in withdrawing their support to the Hokishe Sema [chief minister of Nagaland State] Ministry. The Congress-I MLA's, including four ministers and the deputy speaker, resigned from the party last night alleging that the state government has failed to work up to people's expectations.

The 13 MLA's have also resolved to form a new party called the Congress Regional of Nagaland. With this withdrawal of support by the 13 MLA's the strength of the Congress-I in the 60-member assembly has fallen to 21. [passage omitted]

The union minister of state for surface transport, Mr Rajesh Pilot, has described this political development in Nagaland as a trifle. He told our Kohima correspondent immediately after arrival from New Delhi this evening that the Congress-I high command has sent him to sort out differences among the party members in Nagaland.

He is to meet the senior party leaders and MLA's later tonight to discuss the political situation in the state. The Meghalaya chief minister, Mr Sangma, has also arrived in Kohima.

Meanwhile, the opposition leader, Mr (Vamuzo), has demanded that the chief minister, Mr Hokishe Sema, should step down in the best traditions of parliamentary democracy.

Punjab 'Terrorists' Kill 6 Family Members

BK3007085688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, six members of a family were gunned down by terrorists in Amritsar District early this morning. According to an official spokesman, three terrorists forcibly entered a house and opened fire in Dhaini Basa Singh village under Khalara police station. The killed include the owner of the house, his four sons and a grandson.

In Gurdaspur District, security forces arrested two terrorists after a brief encounter in a village near Batala. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

Shiv Sena Leader Shot

BK3007160088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Excerpt] In Punjab, a senior Shiv Sena leader, Mr Pavan Kumar, and six members of a family have been gunned down by terrorists since this morning. The Shiv Sena leader was shot dead in (Navasar) town in Jullundur District this afternoon. According to an official spokesman, the victim was sitting at a shop when two terrorists fired at him. [passage omitted]

All-Party Meeting Endorses Darjeeling Council

BK2907162988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] The all-party meeting held in Calcutta today endorsed the proposal to form an autonomous hill council in Darjeeling District. All political parties, excepting BJP, also agreed to name the council as Darjeeling Gurkha Hill Council.

The meeting convened by the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, was attended by representatives of 19 political parties. The chief minister apprised the participants of the tripartite talks held in New Delhi on the 25th of this month.

Briefing newsmen later, Mr Jyoti Basu said that in accordance with the Delhi talks, some contiguous areas of Kurseong over and above the three hill subdivisions will be included within the proposed hill council. He also informed that a high-level official team including the state chief secretary is leaving for New Delhi to work out finality of the accord.

AIR Calcutta correspondent reports that with the endorsement of the autonomous hill council in the all-party meeting, the path is now clear for a final agreement, which according to present indications, will be signed in Calcutta early next month.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon on Hypocrisy

LD2907182488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and acting commander in chief of the Armed forces, at Tehran University on 29 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Passage omitted] We have talked about the pecularities of the arrogant. Today, the first sermon will be short in a short sermon because there is a lot to be said in the second sermon. We will talk about a characteristic peculiar to the arrogant powers, that is, hypocrisy. A characteristic peculiar to all arrogant powers is that they what they say is not what is in their thoughts, in their hearts. What they say is contradicts what they do, and what they do they cannot tell the people.

Of course, there is a psychological reason for this. It is because they have reached a stage where their thoughts to not conform with those of society; they have been estranged from their inner self; they consider themselves unique; they believe they deserve certain advantages. Such a person could not even be compatible with other members of his own family. [passage omitted]

I have spoken first of these pecularities due to our present situation. Our current objective is to seek peace, truly seeking peace and proclaiming our intentions. The Iranian nation and world public opinion can clearly see and feel this peculiarity of the arrogant powers today. Those who spoke about nothing but peace for 6 or 7 years, those who had made peace-seeking their slogan, those who accused innocent Iran of being a warmonger, inflexible and stubborn, are now showing their true selves.

The world is beginning to understand what an unfair accusation they were levelling at us. Because of our rights and because we knew the world would not rise for the sake of our rights and punish the aggressor, we said: First do something about punishing the aggressor, then you can expect us to lay down our weapons. What we were saying was perfectly logical, and all the evidence pointed to the fact that we were right. They still did not believe us, claiming we were stubborn.

Those who spoke of peace for 7 years, with the imam's recent remarks, like a silent mountain which makes great wsaves in a big ocean [as heard], these waves [words indistinct] showed what is happening on the shore. It suddenly [words indistinct] and they took back everything they had said and showed their spiteful nature. They lost the credibility of claiming to be peace-loving, which they considered their monopoly.

Now, to those in the world who are fair-minded, Iran's position is becoming clear. These innocent people fought for 8 years with just claims and proved their [words indistinct] today. Their enemy is not peace-loving unless serious pressure is put on him. That is not peace-seeking, it is (?being forced) to accept peace.

The mass media are speaking in our favor now; the big countries cannot say anything else. They are not like Saddam. If they wish to take back today what they said yesterday and say something else, they have to live with public opinion. So, if they wish to change their minds, they have to work at it discreetly for some time, to change public opinion, and then follow public opinion.

It is not possible for the United States, Britain, France, and other Western countries to deny all that they have said and written. Therefore, we can see that they are showing some regard for our claims. [passage indistinct] Of course, it would be difficult for them to act to the contrary. In any case, we know that the UN, the Security Council, and others live in a world dependent on influence of public opinion. There are people in the Western media who put people on trial. There are people who cannot be easily silenced. The actions and the remarks have been so timely and the trend of events have been directed in such a way that it would be difficult for international bodies to act in a manner contrary to what they have said for so long.

Of course, they do not deal with us as seriously as they did with Saddam and issues of the past. When we said we neither accept Resolution No 598 nor reject it, they immediately talked about a second resolution concerning an arms embargo. Today, there is no talk about an arms embargo. Some time has passed now and we see some procrastination. Serious pressure, which is necessary, is not being applied. However, the pressure of public opinion and the clear justifications are so strong that I think they cannot easily shut that door.

The main issue of this sermon is that arrogant, selfish, and self-orientated people are not trustworthy. What they say and what they mean are not the same. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon on Cease-Fire

LD2907191588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1244 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Elsam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, at Tehran University on 29 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Before I discuss the next topic, I congratulate all Muslim men and women on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha and 'Id al-Ghadir, as well as the holy anniversary of the birth of the 10th imam.

My topic of discussion throughout the sermon is one of structured approach about the recent move of his holiness the imam in accepting the resolution, its outcome, and events likely to happen in this respect, as well the war, the battlefronts, and the rear-line support of our revolutionary and fervent society. Also, note will be made of the proposed issue by His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Montazeri [cheers] in pledging allegiance on the Wednesday of 'Id al-Ghadir. [passage omitted]

The move came as a shock and as a move that was welcomed from the very beginning with surprise and disbelief by almost everyone in the world as well as our own people. No one here in our own nation or abroad expected it. [passage omitted] The holy prophet was faced with the same reaction of disbelief when he decided to sign an agreement with the infidels at Hudaybiyah. Even the closest friends of the prophet were shocked while serious objections were rife, but they very soon realized that they were wrong when the Koran provided their reply.

The statement issued by his holiness the imam 2 or so days later, was similar to the accounts of the Fath [victory] verse which descended after the incident at

Hudaybiyah on the prophet's return to Al-Madinah, in order to provide a reply to the people as the state of affairs was questionable and the public had much to say.

As far as I know, other matters aside, I can consider the above a very profound victory. That is, the move by the imam is the real nature of the "Fath ol-Mobin" operation. The "Fath ol-Mobin" we witnessed at the fronts was one-dimensional, but this one is truly great. We have scored victories by all accounts. This point requires some explanation so that we can see how far-reaching a victory this has been.

The first point to note is that our struggle, our revolution, our warm and cold relations with countries of the world and all parties, our war, our peace, and all of our moves have principally been in the service of propagating Islam and the rule of Islam. We are pursuing this aim in order to allow Islam to enter the hearts of the public and to establish Islamic rule wherever we can. We would not be ready for the struggle if we acted in any other manner. We do not enter the scene for other issues nor embroil ourselves in other struggles. We and all those people who joined the imam and followed his moves did so for this reason.

Those who are martyred are martyred for this cause. Therefore, many leave freely for the fronts while other offer their children, husbands, and brothers for the same cause and endure their separation with peace of mind.

Given this situation, a decision was needed. Based on our correct and naive belief, we had thought that the world would heed our words, as our rightful position was very clear. However, the reality was different. The reality was that we had no publicity facilities in the world and we also did not correctly attend to publicity even at home, in the press, radio, and television, sermons, word of mouth, and slogans.

We could not reach out with the spirit of our words to the world. In the name of exporting the revolution, war until victory, and the slogans we uttered, all being absolutely correct, we did not attend to the need for explanations or to repeating them every day—up to 10 times a day—against the enemy's million times a day, which overwhelmed our comments and allowed its words to find a place. It is the job of publicists to repeat word over and over again at any opportunity and without fail. [passage omitted]

Although we voiced our opinions, the world did not understand us. Certainly, a large part of the world population, including the people of our own country where we have more interests than anywhere else and definitely more so in Iraq, the Arab nations, our neighbors, and other countries, (?portrayed) us as a warmongering and obstinate nation. They did not consider us innocent at all. Why was it that following the incident, suddenly all Friday imams and dignitaries began rushing to the fronts? There was nothing new about the danger of Saddam. We had heard it all before. Even those who moaned at the fronts are not able to do so now. Moreover, they are coming to join the war.

Many who questioned us are now joining us in the war following the timely move by the imam. It is not clear to me that this would have happened if it took place 3 years ago. However, it is now clear that this was the proper moment, as I will later explain.

Therefore, if we perceive our revolution as an intellectual and guiding one, if our revolution is to win the hearts of the people, and if we really do not covet any territory—which we do not—then it is necessary for us to convince the people of the world that we are innocent and are defending ourselves. [crowd cheers] Thank you. Thank you. Had we done this—as I said before—even last year, we would not have arived at this result. At that time, as soon as we accepted the resolution, Saddam would have accepted it and then it would have been said that Iran was stubborn for 6 years. However, now it has changed its mind.

That would have been the result and the matter would have ended there. However, Saddam and the world now believed he was in such a situation, which meant that they did not immediately accept it and they resisted. They created obstructions and, in an ugly fashion, they proved on the battlefield that they were lying.

When they did that, the point that I am now getting at is that Iran should prove that its objective was not to capture territory, that it was the innocent one, that it is not a warmonger, and that it wants peace. That point was proven by Saddam's subsequent actions, and if world circles and big countries do not perform their duty, it will be proven even more.

From now on whatever obstructionism we see in our work, it will really be a success in terms of our main aim, that is the aim of revolution, the ideal of the revolution for conquering people's hearts and for removing all doubts from people's mind. Maybe one of the secrets behind the fact that God has inspired this matter in our leader's heart today is that the most suitable time has been chosen. As to what transpired: Look, what have we lost and what have we gained as a result of that action?

In the first hours, it created perhaps for many people some unhappiness. People who had said for 7 or 8 years "War, war until victory," people who had invested in victory; people whose idea of victory was that we would bring Saddam to his knees in the battlefield, all had previously seen that whatever the imam said, he would stand by it until the end, and this came as a shock. Some people perhaps did not believe that the imam had said such a thing, because on the first day the imam had not said anything openly and some (?political groups) thought they could create some dissension during those first few days. Some of them are, in our minds, suspect. They began moving in this direction.

However, when the matter came into the open and the events became clear, and the events followed one after the other, the people started becoming convinced. That is not to say that they were compelled to accept or to surrender. First, when it became clear that the imam himself was definitely saying it, the people accepted it on the basis of obedience of the rule of the jurisconsult. Today, however, they are becoming convinced. When I contact the most zealous people—for example, in the past when I went visited some Hezbollahi pilots—they would plead with me; they would say do not allow this to happen, do not allow the war to end, do not let our pride be broken.

Just yesterday as I was returning from the front, I went to one of the garrisons. The pilots gathered around. I was speaking to some of the aces. They were saying: We accept, on the basis of reason, that it was right, apart from the rule of jurisconsult and apart from the command. We have rationally accepted that a fundamentally correct thing has been done. They are accepting that action as rational now, whether on the basis of their own analysis or ours. [passage omitted]

The measure that was taken, as the Koran states, was aimed at removing the difficulties that had been placed in the path of the movement of Islam, whether they had been created as a result of mistakes or because of the actions of the enemies. Its purpose was to make the path smooth, a path that had become bumpy. [passage omitted]

As a result of the action taken by his holiness the imam, we have achieved a very favorable political position in the world. There may be some who think we are not prepared to compromise. They may ask what is the use of wealth and comfort; what does solving international problems mean—that we oppose the East, West, and reactionaries, and that there is no just government in the world and therefore we should always be as we are now. They may say there is no need for us to change our present situation: Let prices rise as they will, let people's problems mount up irrespective of the burden, we are ready for martyrdom. This is not a correct view. It is not possible to organize the long life of a generation in this way. Gradually, the fundamental principle of Islamic government, the power for governing the country, will come into question, as they [not further specified] were doing.

These issues should be solved sometime. Important issues that a society needs, projects that can be developed, not only from martyr-seeking, crusade, and spirit of sacrifice—as shown by our people during the past 10 years so gloriously—but also in all others aspects, in the power to construct, manage, and in other areas that prove the power of management of Islam for society.

They all should be developed and a way opened for them. This does not mean payment of ransom or coming to terms with the opinions of others. It does not mean agitating without reason and closing doors without reason. To deprive ourselves of what is natural is wrong. It would mean we are giving our enemy the advantage. This is the most foolish thing to do in our struggle. [passage omitted]

Why should we do anything to change those who back us into our enemies? The prophet used to send people before wars, to negotiate with tribes so that they would not enter the war as enemies. They were careful not to fight a number of enemies at the same time. Why should we not do the same? What kind of logic is this? Therefore, the road for a correct move by this society that... [Hashemi-Rafsanjani changes thought] The oppressed people have undergone a great deal of hardship—not the rich, the oppressors, those who have no belief in this revolution and do not toil under our special circumstance, and indeed make more and become stronger every day.

Those who comply with the rules, the oppressed, the ones who are Hezbollahi people and follow this revolution and do not want to do anything wrong—should we add to their daily problems? This is not the right thing to do. In any case, now in the world they cannot—I said that they will not befriend us easily nor should we believe that they will become our friends and supporters of the Islamic Revolution. [sentence as heard]

The main issue is that we can stop making enemies without reason due to this new move. This has opened a new path before us. There are many people who are currently providing resources to Saddam who would not have done so if our foreign policy has been acceptable, or they would have supported both of us. This would have been possible. We should not puch the war into the wrong direction. You see the effects of imam's action at home. A few days ago there were people who questioned the war. However, now the lowliest people, those who oppose Islam, have come to realize with what sort of beast they are dealing.

They saw that, after we accepted the resolution, Saddam came and captured Dehloran, Sumar, Mehran, and Qasr-e Shirin, entered Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Gilan-e Gharb, and struck deep into our country. They realize that if we leave them alone, they will not also leave us alone. So we now see that even those who have no particular religious or revolutionary feeling say it is time to stand up and go to the fronts. There are people at the fronts now that we know had never gone there before.

However, now they have rushed to the fronts and many more are prepared to go. From the domestic point of view, it was necessary to have a logical response to the issue. We may have always convinced the Hezbollahis. However, it was not possible to convince others because they would say: Stop fighting and the country will have peace.

We have reached a crossroad that in my view is highly advantageous. It is one of the most important fruits of this miraculous move of his holiness the imam. Whatever road they choose for us here is to our advantage. Either they will accept the peace, and there are signs that they are doing so, or they will not. We see that the secretary general is truly sincere in the matter. So the resolution will go into effect as is, which means that the committee to identify the aggressor will judge impartially and justly. Even a month ago we were saying we wanted the committee to be formed first, and now we are certain that it will be formed.

If they accept this and the committee is formed, then this is what we wanted, except for the fact that it will happen in conjunction with other articles of the resolution. Previously, we wanted this article to be implemented first. We hope this change will not harm our goals or aspirations.

On the other hand, they may not accept it, and so far Saddam has resisted. Suppose they do not accept it: Is the war situation better now or the way it was a few weeks back? Now the people are united, they are satisfied and they comfortably accept the hardships. If we now say the university is closed, the students understand why; if we say the schools are closed, they understand why; if we say that we do not have certain goods, they all understand and do not ask why the officials have taken such a measure. The conscience of the people is clear.

If someone's child is martyred, then they know it was not our choice but something imposed on us. We used to say this before, but not everyone believed it. However, now they believe it. The issue is now completely clear to our people at home. If now Saddam and his supporters decide to continue the war, our resources at the fronts cannot be compared with those before we accepted the resolution. [crowd chants]

From the military point of view we can forecast that, considering the extent of the faith of those forces going to the fronts, should the war continue we can deal very mortal blows against Iraq. Not like blows of the past... [announcer apologizes for break in transmission due to power outage] [passage indistinct] There are large trucks here, with all the facilities for a military trip from Khanaqin to Tehran exists. They [Mojahedin-e Khalq] had planned it in detail saying they would reach Eslamabad at 2100, Bakhtaran at 0000, Hamadan at 0600, then Qazvin, and then in Azadi Square.

They had also identified the locations of IRGC units, Gendarmerie posts, and police stations on the way, and had selected people to blow them up. They told their people that their forces would be doubled once they reached the first Iranian city because people would join them like an avalanche, so that by the time they reached Tehran the numbers would be enormous. They called this the road of no return. [crowd chants]

Saddam also promised them they would have air cover wherever they went. They had also been given anti-aircraft missiles that they occasionally used. Yesterday, the last day of the clash, Saddam sent 239 sorties up on their behalf. The forces of Saddam were supposed to cooperate with tanks and artillery to some extent. They expected that as soon as they crossed our frontlines there would be nothing behind them. So they arrived as a result of a particular policy.

Once they went through (Pataq) pass, a pass that cannot be crossed if four people with guns defend it, with the help of heavy fire of Iraqi forces, they said that nothing stood before them and that they believed that all they had in front of them was a journey. There was no movement on our side and they continued. They reached Eslamabad at the appointed time and did not seen any reason to stop. All they did was chant a few slogans, scared people, and the people ran out of town.

They were some 35 km from Bakhtaran, an appropriate point, where our first column stopped them in an area south of Chazabeh and north of the Hasanabad pass. The night passed in this way, and the following morning they were strung across 20 km of the road in trucks, personnel carriers, tanks, and even armored vehicles. We took the three armored vehicles of their leaders in Eslamabad. They had brought everything. [crowd chants]

In the morning our aircraft and helicopters carried out a number of reconnaisance missions; our infantry did not move. Our aircraft bombed them along the road so that by the afternoon most of their equipment was destroyed. When they realized the danger, they retreated into the forest. We had taken Eslamabad from them once and then our forces left the city at night. They were encouraged and they were informed that the guards were defeated and entered the city in large numbers. We do not know if all of them came, but all indications are that they brought everything they had, including women, men, and husbands and wives.

As I said, there are 1,000 vehicles so far, and we will let you have more information as we get it. They established their position for the next couple of days. They closed the Kerend road; we closed the road to Eslamabad, the Pol-e Dokhtar road toward Khorramabad, and the Ilam and Bakhtaran highways, and they became stuck. We then started mopping up. According to the women on their radio, Saddam and Rajavi sent them to their graves. Their commanders were ordered to vacate the area while also ordering their forces to resist.

I am sorry that Iranian children were destroyed in their homes. When they entered Eslamabad they went to the hospital and brought our 30 wounded people, and executed them. This is the sort of people they are. Our forces had very few losses because most of the attack was carried out with planes and helicopters. When the mopping up action was going on they did not have any means left to defend themselves. Their resources were running out and their communications were cut. We then ordered the closure of the Kerend-(Pataq) road. A number of special forces did this and yesterday morning anyone that had escaped there was captured and killed. Their escape route is blocked and there is no opening for Iraq to come and support them. [passage omitted]

What would have happened if they had stayed in Iran and were engaged in sabotage in cities? It was a great loss to those who had invested a great deal of money in them. For 10 years, they have been spending money on them. Every member, whom they wish to take from Iran to Iraq, planned an operation—how to contact him, how to take him to the border, and how to cross the border. They took their faithful, crack personnel from Iran and other parts of the world to Iraq.

All the money that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Saddam, and others paid was converted into vehicles, personnel cariers, ammunition, and abundant facilities. They brought a 1000-vehicle convoy—can you imagine how big a 1000-vehicle convoy is—deep inside Iran, but they were defeated. No power in the world, except divine guidance and holy leadership, who directed the events to this point, could have planned and executed this operation. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

In my opinion, if the Iraqis continue their mischief, their fate will be similar. [crowd chants] Thank you. It is not my doing. I am a person just like you. It was the commanders, fighters, mobilization forces, and soldiers who did it. I was just a witness. It was done with your support.

From now on, foreign analyses will change. Their analyses of the past 2 or 3 days were wrong. They exaggerated their value [Mojahedin-e Khalq] and called them an alternative. They said that they wished to liberate some areas so that they could take part in the peace talks, that they wanted to go to Tehran to proceed from there. There were many strange, obscure, and incorrect analyses. Now, their eyes are beginning to open, so that they can see what is happening here.

The rest of those who were talking about alternative governments now realize that this is not the case here, that the nation is not like that. To enter Iranian soil would be a very difficult thing to do, under any circumstances, for any traitor and conspirator, as we have seen. [passage omitted]

Another important current issue is the declaration of allegiance to his holiness the imam of the ummah. [passage omitted] Today, as proposed by the deputy leader, our nation is on the verge of declaring its allegiance. This should be done gloriously. It is a great deed. For some months, they have said that the nation is tired of war, it has forsaken the leader, the clergy and the people have drifted apart, and other things. That is why the hypocrites reached the conclusion that they should come to Tehran. It was so serious that they staked their lives on it. They believed that this was the case.

To shatter this dream and dishearten all who covet Iran, our nation must wholeheartedly take part on 'Eid-e Ghadir [2 August] in the ceremonies on the declaration of allegiance to the imam. [crowd chants] All I can say is that the more glorious this declaration of allegiance is, the more effective it will be in making Islam victorious, in disheartening the enemies of Islam, and for the future of this revolution. We know that our nation understands this and will act accordingly. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Velayati Activities at UN

Message Delivered to Officials

LD2907121688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Report on the message of Foreign Minister Velayati that was delivered to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and to the president of the Security Council at the United Nations; date not given—recorded]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has asked for the full and unconditional implementation of the UN secretary general's plan regarding the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598. Iran's representative to the United Nations, in two separate meetings, submitted the message of our country's foreign minister to the UN secretary general and to the president of the Security Council.

The message states in part: In view of the fact that there is no mention in Resolution No 598 of any precondition for direct talks, there is no reason to hold direct negotiations between the representatives of Iran and Iraq prior to the implementation of the resolution. Dr Velayati's message also states: If in the course of the implementation of the various stages of the UN secretary general's plan, particularly Clause 4, in connection with the comprehensive resolution of the two countries' differences, the UN secretary general finds a need for direct talks, Iran will be prepared to examine that proposal by the secretary general.

The UN Security Council met this morning to hear a report about the first stage of the UN secretary general's talks with the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers, and then issued a statement reaffirming their total support for the secretary general's efforts made within the framework of the broad role given to him in Resolution No 598.

The Iraqi regime announced yesterday that it is not the duty of the secretary general to announce a cease-fire date, and that no clause of Resolution No 598 should implemented prior to direct negotiations betwen Iran and Iraq. However, with the full authority and decisive support given by the Security Council to the UN secretary general, the Security Council has given the secretary general the authority to announce a cease-fire date and to fully implement the resolution, and has also rejected the preconditions proposed by Iraq.

Diplomatic circles closely linked to the UN negotiations believe that the granting of such strong and definite authority to the secretary general by the Security Council can be viewed as a critical response to Iraq's insistance on imposing direct neotiations as a precondition. Meanwhile, the French and British ambassadors to the United Nations, in two separate meetings with Dr Velayati, declared the Security Council's total preparedness to resolve the matter.

The recent talks between Iran's representative delegation and UN officials seem to have had positive results with regard to making clear the Iraqi regime's war-mongering and obstructionist nature and its diplomatic isolation.

Discusses Ties With UK Envoy

LD2907181188 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] United Nations, July 29, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati currently here to hold talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for a cease-fire in Iraq-Iran war Thursday conferred with British Ambassador to the U.N. Sir Crispin Tickell on the Resolution 598.

The British envoy thanking the Islamic Republic for accepting the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 announced that the Security Council's permanent members fully back the resolution. The members, Tickell said, continue to strongly support Perez de Cuellar in carrying out the resolution.

The British ambassador expressing satisfaction with the positive developments recently created in Tehran-London relations called for further promotion of bilateral ties.

In response, the Iranian minister said the Islamic Republic has never had vague stands towards the Iraqi imposed war. He pointed out "we had our own viewpoints on the Resolution 598 at the time of submission of the resolution, but we accepted it after Imam Khomeyni accepted it." After that, he noted, Iran gave positive answers to Perez de Cuellar's demands to accelerate execution of the resolution.

In the meantime, he added, Iraqi regime "as we always predicted" began putting forth excuses for undermining the cease-fire negotiatons both in the political scenes and by invading the Islamic Republic.

Velayati expressed hope that the U.N. Security Council would fully accomplish its duty.

The U.N. secretary general continues talks in separate meetings with the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers for working out a cease-fire plan.

Last Tuesday, Perez de Cuellar predicted that the cease-fire plan would be carried out within ten days.

Velayati in his third round of talks with the U.N. chief termed Perez de Cuellar's plan as "positive".

Meanwhile, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz insisted on face-to-face talks with his Iranian counterpart in his first meeting with the U.N. chief on Wednesday terming the face-to-face meeting as a condition for carrying-out the cease-fire plan. But Perez de Cuellar told reporters in an interview that Iraq's condition for direct talks with the Iranian officials is unacceptable under the circumstances.

Meets With Perez de Cuellar

NC3007055888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Mr Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, held a 1-hour meeting with the UN secretary general last night after which he clarified that he considers the secretary general's recent proposals on the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598 generally positive.

AFP reports that Mr Velayati stated that Tehran's final answer to these proposals will be given today. He pointed out that Iran does not accept any precondition, namely, direct talks, on implementing the UN peace plan. In conclusion, Mr Velayati said that his country will accept direct talks at an acceptable level when the initial stages of the resolution—the declaration of a cease-fire, the withdrawal to international borders, and the exchange of POW's—have been completed.

Mr Velayati made these remarks after his fourth round of talks with the UN secretary general.

Comments on Talks

LD3107115788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Unidentified correspondent's dispatch from London]

[Excerpts] In the fifth round of his talks with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar last night, Foreign Minister Velayati presented the Iranian delegation's specific views on the secretary general's latest proposals.

The new amendment, which is in eight parts, concerns the latest coordination to determine the day marking the cease-fire, the opening and closing dates for withdrawing forces behind recognized international borders, the opening and closing dates for registering POW's by the International Red Cross, the method of exchanging POW's, and opening and closing dates for the committee to determine the aggressor.

Among the important and notable points raised in the amendment is the treatment of POW's and its difference form the treatment of civilian captives—referring to civilians captured by the Ba'thist forces in the early days of the war during Iraqi attacks on Iranian border towns and villages.

Another important issue is the plan to dispatch a delegation to note the destruction resulting from the war and to assess reconstruction plans. Another is the plan for regional cooperation among Persian Gulf countries as a basis for regional understanding and cooperation.

Last night, at the end of these talks, Dr Velayati reiterated that Iran still considers Security Council Resolution No 598 and the secretary general's implementation plan as bases for peace talks and that Iran will not accept any preconditions from Iraq. He stressed that Iraq's insistence on direct talks, which has been put forward without consulting the United Nations and the Security Council, is merely a way of sabotaging peace moves.

He stressed: The question of direct talks, at an acceptable level, is only possible following a cease-fire, the withdrawal of forces, and the exchange of POW's, in the process of reviewing the differences between the two countries. Otherwise, at this stage, the basis for talks and peace plans is Resolution No 598 and the secretary general's plan. The two sides should abide by the decisions of the Security Council and the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, UN sources believe that Saudi UN envoy Ibn Sultan's [title as heard] sudden trip to New York yesterday was based on knowledge of future Western policies about the continuation of Iraqi sabotage.

UN sources also predict that if Iraq's sabotage is halted, a cease-fire could be implemented by the end of this week or the beginning of next week.

Mahallati Interviewed on Resolution, Hostages

LD3007162488 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] New York, July 30, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to the U.N. yesterday said that despite Iraqi obstacles to prevent the smooth implementation of Resolution 598, the U.N. chief was obliged to announce the ceasefire date in the light of full mandate he has received from the Security Council.

In an exclusive interview with IRNA here Friday, Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, commenting on progress in talks on ceasefire in the Iraqi-imposed war, said "as far as we and Perez de Cuellar are concerned we have fully made progress in this regard and we now seem to have reached a starting point for agreement."

Mahallati also blasted the Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq for trying to obstruct implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 which calls for ceasefire in the conflict, and for demanding direct talks with Iran as a condition for putting the resolution into practice.

"If we allow Baghdad to set a new condition now we will in fact be encouraging this regime to make new objections for each and every article of Resolution 598. This means emptying the resolution of its contents despite the Security Council's decision to support it," he said.

The Iranian envoy said that if any side is given the right to set a new condition, it is natural for the other to demand this privilege too and such a process will only result in the defeat of the resolution.

Mahallati, asked what would happen if the Iraqi regime rejected Perez de Cuellar's plan to enforce Resolution 598, replied that in that case the U.N. secretary-general, according to the exclusive mandate given to him by the Security Council will go ahead with his plan and announce the date of ceasefire that would be binding upon for both sides.

The Iraqi regime's maneuverings to ignore the ceasefire would not only place it in an awkward position against the Security Council but will also further confirm the fact that it is Baghdad which is prolonging the war, Mahallati said. In such a case, he added, the Security Council is duty bound to take certain punitive measures against the Iraqi regime.

Mahallati termed Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn's demand that the Security Council guarantee peace before his acceptance of Perez de Cuellar's plan, as yet another new "obstacle" in the way of Resolution 598. This is not acceptable to either the Security Council, the U.N. Secretariat of the Islamic Republic, he stressed.

On the contrary, Mahallati noted, it is the victim of aggression who should seek international guarantees and therefore it is the right of Iran—not Iraq—to ask for necessary assurances for preventing the repetition of the Iraqi aggression, after U.N. Resolution 598, is implemented.

However, he said, it seems that the reports would be published on Monday and that the Security Council in accordance with U.N. Resolution 612 which bans the use of chemical weapons under any circumstances should take necessary measures in this regard.

More on the same subject, Mahallati said in his opinion the Security Council should investigate Iraq's deployment of toxic gases as an issue independent of the continuation of the war and talks on U.N. Resolution 598.

However, he noted, the continuation of such crimes by the Baghdad regime should make the U.N. and its Security Council speed up their efforts for an immediate ceasefire.

Although the Islamic Republic is showing its utmost flexibility and cooperation with the U.N. secretary-general for the implementation of the resolution, it is still firm in its military decisions against the continued Iraqi aggression.

Mahallati also commented on U.S. news reports alleging that Perez de Cuellar was to bring up the issue of American hostages in Lebanon in his talks with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

He said "Our stance on the hostages issue is quite clear. We have time and again announced that the Islamic Republic is ready to use its influence to secure the release of civilian hostages in Lebanon."

However, Mahallati noted, the hostages issue concerns Lebanon, not Iran and besides it has nothing to do with the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598.

Besharati Vows No Ship Attacks During Talks

NC3107093188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0925 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Mohammad 'Ali Besharati, Iranian deputy foreign minister, said today that Iran will not attack ships in the Gulf during the current UN-sponsored peace talks on the Iraq-Iran war. Besharati told REUTER: We will do our utmost not to do anything until Resolution No 598 is implemented.

UN Report on Iraqi Toxic Gas Use Suppressed

LD3007103988 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 30, IRNA—The Iraqi regime is deviously delaying the latest U.N. report on its extensive use of chemical weapons until Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz leaves New York, according to reports from the United Nations.

The London INDEPENDENT said Friday that the findings are particularly "damning" against Iraq and could have important repercussions for the Baghdad regime at the current stage of peace negotiations at the U.N.

The report "catalogues atrocious suffering by Iranian women and children as well as Iranian and Iraqi soldiers" and concludes that "Iraq has dramatically increased chemical bombardments of Iranian civilian and military targets in recent weeks," it said.

The paper expected that such "horrifying" evidence could pave the way for an "outright condemnation" of Iraq by the Security Council, something considered "unthinkable a few weeks ago.

Iraq has deployed chemicals weapons in increasing amounts right from the early months of its invasion of Iran and although it has been documented every year by the U.N. reports since 1984, it has repeatedly held back from censuring the Iraqi regime.

Chemical weapons expert Dr Julian Perry Robinson in London told IRNA that he anticipated the report from the U.N. team that took place on July 10 and 11 to have come out last Tuesday, but THE INDEPENDENT found Iraq had interfered with the Arabic translation.

"Its publication should have coincided with the arrival in New York this week of the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers" the paper admitted but said that Iraq had used its influence in the translation that blocked the simultaneous release of all six-language versions.

Many prominent British academics, peace groups and members of Parliament have severely censured the silence by world governments that has allowed Iraqi's increasing use of poison and nerve gases which are still being deployed in attacks on Iran while 'Aziz is in New York.

THE INDEPENDENT found the "most damaging conclusion" was that Iraq was "using chemical weapons more than ever before and that the U.N. team did not buy Iraq's attempt that outlawed gases had also been used by Iran.

The Iraqi casualties are assumed to have been "own goals—the result of poison gas clouds being blown back over their own lines or the result of poorly targetted artillery shells and aerial bombardments."

Iran has repeatedly stated its unwillingness to use chemical weapons that were found to be so horrendous by the international community that they were outlawed by a Geneva protocol in 1925 that both Iran and Iraq are signatories.

The conclusion by the medical team hired by the U.N. to make on-site inspections was that there is "no evidence of Iranian use," the paper said and felt that the implications of Iraq's guilt could be particularly dangerous for the Baghdad regime at the U.N.

No Firm UN Action Expected
LD3007155188 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 30 Jul 88

["U.N. Expected To Act Feebly Over Iraq's Increasing Gas Warfare"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, July 30, IRNA—Britain says it is waiting to see the text of the latest U.N. report on Iraq's extensive use of chemical weapons before making any comment but reports from New York suggest that the chance of any firm measures by the Security Council are negligible.

The findings are said to be the most damning yet against the Iraqi regime and claims that five permanent members of the Security Council have already moved against Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn have been denied by the British Foreign Office.

A ministry spokesman told IRNA Saturday that the U.N. delayed report was now due to be published on Monday and would not be taking any action or making any comment until then.

The London INDEPENDENT said that there was "little indication" at the U.N. that the international community would this time toughen its stance against the Baghdad regime, particularly over chemical weapons. It quoted one Western diplomat saying Iraq was "too important" for any effective pressure to be brought to bear against the regime.

The Foreign Office said that it had expressed its concern when Iraq launched new offensives following Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 last week but since then "had not done anything."

The U.N. report is said to have found that Iraq has resorted to ever increasing use of chemical weapons in its attacks against Iran and observers question the continuing refusal by the U.N. to act decisively especially at a time when Iran has expressed willingness for peace.

The silence by the Security Council has allowed Baghdad to extensively use poison gas in its new incursions into Iran, the latest being on ten villages near Sar Dasht in northwestern Iran on Friday night.

Chemical weapons expert Elisa Harris from the Royal United Services Institute says that the U.N. has evidenced Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons since 1984 but had not acted earlier because the international community was keen to see an Iraqi victory.

Speaking on BBC World Service, she said right from the beginning the U.N. should have acted strongly and that individual governments should have told the Iraqi's that "if they continued there should be a complete halt in conventional arms supplies to Baghdad."

"It didn't happen and was regrettable and was weakening the taboo against chemical warfare that has existed since the first world war," the analyst feared.

UK's Thatcher on Hopes To Improve Ties
LD3007211188 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 30, IRNA—Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has added her voice to the growing British hopes for a better relationship with Islamic Iran.

In a letter this week to David Waite, brother of missing church envoy Terry Waite, the British prime minister expressed her own personal support for the first time that Britain should be prepared to change its attitude to the Islamic Revolution to improve ties.

There are "various problems which have arisen between Britain and Iran in the recent past which will have to be solved, but if the goodwill to do so exists in Iran, we shall reciprocate," she said.

Thatcher stressed that Britain did "not want strained relations with Iran" and said that she hoped that now work could be done "together to remove the obstacles." Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 had been a "very welcome step," she added.

Her comments are a significant change in her own personal hardline stance against the Islamic Republic and follows earlier hints that Britain was becoming more conciliatory towards Iran and preparing to send a diplomat to Tehran for the first time in nearly one year.

Relations soured last June after London's mistreatment of an Iranian diplomat in Manchester.

David Waite's interest in improving ties is based upon trying to use Iran's good offices to assist with its influence in Lebanon about his missing brother and the prime minister said that she had noted Iran's foreign minister's quote in New York that Iran was doing its best to work for the release of all hostages.

Sources close to the archbishop of Canterbury said that they were pleased by the tone of Thatcher's letter, that was "positive and constructive."

First signs of Britain changing its policy towards Iran started in May with the early release of an Iranian prisoner after 8 years in gaol and was followed by the settlement of embassy reparations going on since 1980.

A visit then by a parliamentary delegation to Tehran came back favourably, reporting on its findings and urging Britain to rebuild its relations, saying the U.K. was the only European country without representation in the Iranian capital.

France To Help Locate Airbus Flight Recorder

LD0108093888 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., Aug. 1, IRNA—France has said it is ready to provide Iran with its submarine to help it find the black box of the Iran Air passenger plane which was shot down by two missiles fired from American warship the USS Vincennes over the Persian Gulf on July 3. All 290 passengers aboard the ill-fated plane were killed in the unmanly U.S. attack.

A provincial official who disclosed this in a contact with IRNA today, further said that an area of over 150 sq. kms had been searched over the past nine days since Britain provided Iran with new equipments, but to no avail.

He said the search for the black box would become more difficult in the coming days as its initial signal waves will disappear today (almost a month after the incident) and its next waves will become weaker.

Appreciating the round-the-clock efforts of the technical teams of the Iran Air and Civil Aviation Organisation, the official expressed hope that these efforts would eventually bear fruit.

An expert delegation from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) is currently here to investigate the issue.

Khamene'i Visits Front, Addresses Armed Forces

LD2907181488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] President Khamene'i, who is at the battlefronts, reviewed the latest military developments in the sector this morning at the headquarters of one of the divisions of the forces of Islam

This afternoon, President Khamene'i inspected an Iranian Air Force base. At a meeting with commanders at the base, he reviewed the developments on the war fronts.

Also this morning, at a gathering of the forces of Islam at one of the operational axes, he praised the revolutionary spirit of the offspring of the heroic nation of Iran. He said: True understanding of circumstances, which is one of the most important criteria for a nation's survival, independence, honor, and strength, can be seen in the correct vision and lofty ideals of Islamic Iran.

Regarding Iran's acceptence of Resolution No 598, which disrupted everyone's calculations, he said: The first incorrect interpretation by some of the masters of the Iraqi regime concerning the acceptance of the resolution was that Iran has become weak and cannot fight, that Iraq must attack Iran while it is weak and put pressure on Iran. It is because of this miscalculation that they staged certain offensives.

He added: Our revolution proved that it has the power to mobilize the people and slap the enemy in the face, even if the enemy is supported by the East and the West.

He said: It was made clear to the world today how the warmongering enemy is alien to peace. Even if there is cease-fire and peace, one should be watchful, for this enemy constantly threatens our borders. Therefore, we must prepare ourselves and quickly organize our manpower.

Speaks to Military Personnel

NC3007065188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamane'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, has spoken to pilots, second class Air Force technicians, NCO's, and conscripts at one of the Iranian Armed Forces' Air Force bases in an operational theater.

At this gathering the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to the concurrence of views of the Eastern and Western superpowers in their approach to Iranian issues. He described the enemy's recent moves on the fronts as an act stemming from the enemy's inability to (?understand) the Islamic Revolution and the social fabric of our society and said: The recent acts by the aggressive enemy on the fronts are based on its conclusion that the Islamic Republic's acceptance of Resolution No 598 means it has become weak, and the that the situation now calls for using military superiority to gain political points.

The president added: It was this same miscalculation that encouraged the enemy to attack Iranian territory. Now the enemy has once again made this miscalculation with its aggressive acts on the fronts.

Stressing the sensitivity of the current period, the president said: A military effort now is essential, and everything should be done in parallel with and in the same direction as this effort. (?In other words, everyone) and everything should be military.

In conclusion, Mr Khamene'i thanked the Iranian Air Force personnel for their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and encouraged them to continue their efforts with more initiative.

Mr Khamene'i also visited an IRGC military garrison on the [word indistinct] front last night and performed the [word indistinct] and evening prayer with tens of thousands of volunteer Basiji forces who have come to the fronts from all parts of the country to thwart the enemy's aggression. In his speech at the garrison, the president praised the people's extensive presence on the war fronts.

Addressing the volunteer popular forces, he said: You are the manifestation of the lofty spirit of the Iranian nation to defend your country and the Islamic Revolution. Mr Khamane'i also said: Peace is good, but justice is even more important and more beautiful. The president added: Our objective in accepting Resolution No 598 is to establish justice, neutralize the extensive world propaganda against the Islamic Republic, and, ultimately, prepare the ground for a lasting peace in the region.

The president then noted the need for the precise and full implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598. Rejecting any precondition for its implementation, he said that adding conditions to the resolution is tantamount to rejecting it.

Equates Fates of Islam, Iran

LD2907181988 Tehran IRNA in English 1731 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i currently visiting the war fronts Thursday night said a nation which is mobilised to such extent at a general invitation after eight years of war to repell enemy's invasion "is always victorious."

The president speaking in a gathering of a field-hospital personnel lauded the efforts of medical teams and nurses and said the fate of Islam and Iran is intertwined. Therefore, he added, the Islamic Republic's defeat leads to weakening of Islam and "our revival is Islam's revival."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i also visited some injured combatants hospitalized in a field-hospital and gave them gifts.

Visits Air Base, IRGC Garrison

LD3007065388 Tehran IRNA in English 0644 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i Friday described recent Iraqi attacks against Iran as another miscalculation and Iraq's failure to understand nature of the Iranian society.

Addressing personnel of an Air Force base in central fronts he said that enemy thought Iran's acceptance of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 was a sign of weakness. Therefore, it launched fresh military attacks for more political gains.

The president who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council stressed that the present time was a crucial period.

In another speech at an Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps garrison he said peace is good and very valuable but justice is far more important.

The idea behind Iran's acceptance of the resolution, he said was to secure justice, offset massive anti-Iran propaganda and ultimately establish a lasting peace in the region.

He called for complete implementation of the resolution stressing that adding a pre-requisite meant refusing it.

Addresses Volunteer Troops

LD3007195988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, who is on the operational axes of the battlefronts, in a speech last night to a group of volunteers referred to Iran's acceptence of Resolution No 598 and the reason for Iran's acceptance. He said: We have always said we want justice. Justice is above peace. Whether this justice is achieved with peace or war is irrelevant. This logic was acceptable to everybody we spoke to.

He added: With Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598, the Iraqi regime could not respond in any way. Therefore, due to a miscalculation and a sense of power, and thinking that if it did not accept the resolution it would be condemned by world public opinion, Iraq announced that it accepts the resolution with certain conditions. It also felt that it should take advantage of the situation and attack us. Because, in addition to all his faults, Saddam is superficial in the true sense of the word, he committed an act of aggression, just as at the start of the war. He thought there were no longer any Iranian forces, that youths were no longer going to the fronts.

Therefore, he concluded that he should continue his aggression after Iran's acceptance of the resolution, so that he could make proposals in his own favor about its implementation. However, he made a big mistake, for God has bestowed the banner of Islam on this nation. Immediately after the imam's message was broadcast, shouts of obedience were raised from all over the country and Saddam realized what was happening.

Concerning the cooperation between the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] and Saddam's Zionist regime, he said: The true nature of these miserable hypocritical mercenaries was exposed in recent clashes. They have sought the protection of a person like Saddam, who has no pity, even on the people of Halabjah, who are his fellow-countrymen.

Addressing the fighters of Islam, he said: This enemy must not enter our soil and leave unscathed. He wants to pretend to be the strong one. After all those defeats, if the Iraqi army says: I can come and go, it must not return if it comes. [sentence as heard]

Meets With Commanders, Volunteers

LD0108060988 Tehran IRNA in English 0557 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Operational [as received] Region, Aug. 1, IRNA—President and head of the Supreme Defence Council [SDC] 'Ali Khamene'i in a meeting here Sunday night with military commanders discussed the latest development in the war fronts.

Meanwhile in another meeting the same day with a group of volunteer forces the president said the combat readiness displayed by the volunteer forces over the past few days shows they are determined to prove superiority of Islam's power to the enemy.

He told them that Iran's acceptance of the UN Resolution 598 was a surprise move which puzzled enemies of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Faced with Iran's unexpected move the desperate Baghdad regime decided to display a show of power, he said. On the one hand, he said, Iraq aimed at portraying its army as a powerful one and on the other through its attacks it wanted to gain the upper hand in peace negotiations.

The enemy's latest miscalculation stemmed from the fact that he had once again failed to know the revolutionary nation of Iran, said the president. All these moves backfired and yet made the Iranian nation more alert, he noted.

Referring to the deeply-rooted hostility of the world arrogance and reactionaries of the region towards the Islamic Republic the president said they have now realised that they cannot encounter the Iranian nation because it has foiled all their plots.

Elsewhere in his speech the SDC head said the nation in order to maintain its power in this strategic region must keep a combat ready force so that the enemies will not think of violating Iran's rights.

Iraq launched its war against Iran eight years ago under the assumption that Iran was weak but now, facing the heroic resistance of the Iranian forces Baghdad finds itself in a position of weakness, he said.

Meets Friday Imams at Fronts

LD0108100488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, met with a gathering of the country's Friday imams in one of the country's war regions. He referred to the extensive presence at the fronts of various sections of people from throughout the country and to the active and serious presence and role of Friday imams and clergymen at the fronts. The president stressed that the correct guidance, maintenance, and use of the divine movement is the main duty of the country's Friday imams.

The president also referred to the positive and negative points of development during the 8-year war and to the all-sided presence of popular volunteer forces at the fronts. He stressed the need for help from the people along with government provided assistance and resources. He said: The tremendous enthusiasm throughout the country and the presence of popular volunteer forces has created a desire for action in our military commanders. They are awaiting the permission of the General Command Headquarters.

The chairman of the Supreme Council noted Iraq's obstructionism with regard to the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598 and said: The excuses and obstructionism of the enemy have place Iraq in a weak position from the viewpoint of political credibility. This is one of the blessings arising from the Islamic Republic of Iran's new position in accepting the resolution, which is producing positive results.

Hoseyn Musavi Calls on People To Rally 2 Aug

LD3107143288 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—The Cabinet in its Sunday's session chaired by Premier Hoseyn Musavi lauded Iran's Muslim combatants for routing Iraqi occupation troops and members of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq (MKO) group during the victorious "Marsad" (Ambuscade) operations in western Iran.

The Cabinet also underlined the need for strengthening the armed forces and for implementing policies declared by the acting armed forces commander-in-chief Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Speaking after the session, Premier Musavi said the daring decisions recently taken by the leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni have caught the world by surprise because he said the world is unable to realize the spiritual link between the leadership and divine orders.

Enemies of the Islamic Republic, in order to justify their ignorance, have once again embarked on political and propaganda ploys to attack the values of the Islamic Revolution and prevent people from supporting the revolution since Imam Khomeyni approved of Iran's acceptance of the U.N. Resolution 598.

Under such circumstances, Musavi said, the revered ayatollah, Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri who enjoys deep knowledge over domestic issues called on people to stage nationwide rallies on the occasion of 'Eid-e Ghadir, August 2 (the day Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) appointed Imam 'Ali (A.S.) as his successor) in an effort to renew their allegiance to Imam Khomeyni.

The premier called on Iran's Muslim people to actively participate in Tuesday's rallies and demonstrate their full-fledged support for the founder of the Islamic Republic.

Commander on Iraqi 'Overthrow' Plot

LD3007201288 Tehran IRNA in English 1902 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 30, IRNA—According to obtained information and documents from the defeated anti-revolutionaries the Iraqi Army had prepared these terrorist grouplets for an organized attack on Iran, dreaming to overthrow the Islamic government and dismember the country, said an operational commander.

Based on the seized charts, the anti-revolutionaries entertained the wishful thought of marhing upon Tehran in a four-stage plan, in which the Iraqi Army had a major role in fields of logistics, backing, and armored equipments, said the commander.

The heavily armed and organized brigades of the monafeqin (hypocrites), together with Iraqi reconnaissance activities, all indicate the fact that the Baghdad regime was planning a wide scale invasion of the Islamic Republic, said the commander adding the vigilance and bravbery of Iran's Muslim combatants disappointed the enemy.

The anti-revolutionaries, in the vain hope of breaching the Iranian forces' defense lines in Bakhtaran, had gathered all their facilities—like compressed spring—behind Iranian defense lines, the night before the attack, dreaming of reaching Bakhtaran in 30 minutes, he said.

But this very imagination proved their undoing, as a result of which they sustained substantial casualties and a large amount of their equipments—provided by the Iraqi regime and the superpowers—were destroyed, said the commander.

The Iraqi regime pursued several aims by pressing the outlawed elements into service, said the commander adding, one of which was to send them out of Iraq in order to get rid of future problems in time of peace.

Another Iraqi aim was to try and inflict a blow upon the Islamic Republic by deploying monafeqin, while it claimed it was withdrawing from Iran's territory, said the commander.

The third aim was to divert Iran's Muslim combatants' attention towards the terrorists and make them busy fighting, while it intended to remain in the occupied regions of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Qasr-e Shirin, and Gilan-e Gharb (Bakhtaran Prov.), he added.

Iran's Muslim combatants taught both the Iraqi regime and the anti-revolutionaries an unforgettable lesson by their heroic acts, he concluded.

IRGC Minister Interviewed on Marsad Victory

LD3007190088 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—Minister of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) today described the victorious Marsad (ambuscade) operations launched in the western fronts last week as a resounding victory.

In an interview here Saturday, he said the enemies' stupidity coupled with the excellent coordination shown by the Muslim forces were "two effective factors" in rounding up such brilliant triumphs.

Iraq's fresh aggression following the Islamic Republic's historic acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 (July 18) once again proves that the Ba'thist regime is not seeking peace, said the IRGC minister. And in view of these facts, he urged the Muslim combatants to be on full alert until the final stages and to carry out decisions of the war commanders for continuing despatch of forces to the fronts.

Rafiqdust pointing out that parts of Iranian soil in the western areas are still under enemy occupation said, "We are duty bound to powerfully continue our defence and push out the intruding forces from Iran."

Field Commander Reviews Mehran Operations

LD3007122188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] A commander in the Marsad operational area was interviewed by reporters. He said that during the victorious Marsad operations the fighters of Islam adopted the finest operational methods and used amazing tactics. They succeeded in drawing the aggressor Ba'thist forces and the treacherous hypocrites into a trap in several stages and, by striking deadly blows, inflicted heavy casualties and losses on them.

In the operations, over 1,000 tanks, vehicles, and personnel carriers of the Saddamist and the mercenary hypocrites were set ablaze, and dozens were captured by the fighters of Islam. In the operations, thousands of

Ba'thist aggressors and treacherous hypocrites were also killed or wounded. In addition, a large number of the enemy forces were captured.

The operational commander of the army of Islam added: The Marsad operation is important for several reasons. First, the use of very clever tactics drew the enemy into a trap in a phased operationral phases. Then, in a relentless attack, we turned their positions into such a blazing hell that any possibility of resistance was impossible.

Another reason was Iraq's extensive operational use of hard-hearted treacherous hypocrites. The commander added: The Ba'thist regime's renewed invasion of our Islamic homeland's territory in the Khuzestan front was crushed by the extensive, uniform, and amazing presence of the resistant, noble, and heroic people of Iran.

The military commander said: The Iraqi Ba'thist regime used the operational cover of the hypocrites to create doubt and uncertainty and to penetrate the people's uniform defense and resistance. Following the Islamic Republic of Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598, the hypocrites' masters saw their approaching death and marshaled all their resources to increase the Ba'thist regime's aggression. To create the necessary attitude in their hard hearted agents for this open treachery, they deceived themselves with false analyses and with the announcement of a final offensive. They sent them into a trap with the promise that they would reach Tehran in 24 hours.

In the last few years, the hypocrites have learned through military espionage the exact details of the impact zones of the bombs and missiles launched during the war of the cities and have carried out terrorist and sabotage operations in the service of the aggressive policies of the Iraqi Ba'thist Zionist regime. The hypocrites have nevertheless persistently tried to hide their treachery. However, their open cooperation in the Iraqi forces' renewed aggression in the western sector of the country has unmasked their treachery and their betrayal of their country once and for all. It has exposed them for all time.

Another issue is that the infliction of heavy and effective blows on the weak and aggressor Ba'thist enemy and on the hypocrites was a result of the extensive presence and the courageous resistance of the faithful popular forces and their uniform cooperation with the capable fighters of the army of monotheism.

We witnessed the crimes of the enemies of Islam in the city of Eslamabad and the martyrdom of the resistant people of that city at the hands of the hypocrites. The presence and resistance of the people in the operational areas was so extensive and effective that the enemies of Islam explicitly confessed this fact in their radio propaganda and discussed it. However, the selfless heroes of the fronts of light will not stop until the aggressors have been expelled.

The military commander added: In view of Saddam's aggressive nature, the revolutionary and martyr-nurturing people will continue their ever greater presence on the fronts. They will maintain the necessary preparedness until the aggression has been completely thwarted and the Ba'thist aggressors have been driven from the pure soil of Iran.

IRGC Mobilization Official on Dispatches

NC3007071288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Telephone report by unidentified correspondent in Ahvaz—recorded]

[Text] [Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali] Rahmani, head of the organization for the Mobilization of the Oppressed, has called on trained basijis and members of the 20-million strong army to be present at the battlefronts. He said: Until the enemy's aggression is completely repulsed, the speedy dispatch of forces to the fronts will continue, and mobilization officials and all IRGC dispatch centers throughout the country should remain active.

The head of the organization for the Mobilization of the Oppressed and the official in charge of collecting and dispatching the people's aid to the fronts, has gone to the operational theaters. In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent he said: Popular assistance should continue along with extensive dispatches to the fronts as in the past, so that the dear fighters of Islam can be supported and helped. He added: During the past 2 or 3 months more than 1.240 million rials have been donated by our selfless people. However, despite the convoys that have been sent to the fronts by the staff in charge of collecting and directing the people's aid, there are some shortcomings which I hope will be overcome with the more extensive dispatches of convoys consisting of the people's help from the centers of the provinces to the fronts on the auspicious 'Eid-e Ghadir.

In conclusion, Rahmani cited figures on the needs of the fighters of Islam. He said: Our brave and ever-present-on-the-scene people can help by donating fatigues, thermos bottles, sugar, various types of shoes and clothing, canned goods, water coolers, air coolers, and ventilators to the staff throughout the country so that we can crush the enemy with the help of the all-embracing support of the people.

More Volunteer Units Depart for Fronts

Gilan Province Group

LD2907134688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] The rapid movement of mobilization forces toward the fronts, which has been taking place since the Saddamists' recent attacks, continued today in response to the recent instructions of Imam Khomeyni and the call from General Command Headquarters. A large group of mobilization forces from Rudsar, Langud, Sowma'ea Sara, and Fowman, Gilan Province, left for the fronts. According to a Central News Unit report, yesterday evening a large group of Gilan fighting forces departed for the fronts from the cities of Astara, (?Rudbar), and Rudsar.

The report also noted that a large number of the mobilization forces from Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh Province departed Gachsaran today for the fronts. They are traveling under the title of the special envoy of the Ansar al-Husayn [Husayn's helpers].

A mobilization group from Mahshahr also rushed to the fronts today. Another report says that the mobilization sisters of Mahshahr marched through the city's streets and declared their readiness to participate in the holy defense.

Forces From Provinces, Tehran

LD2907224388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Summary] Today a large number of forces from Fars, Azarbayjan Bakhtari, Kordestan, Semnan, Zanjan, Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh, and Tehran city left to defend the country's borders.

Zahedan Volunteers

LD3107050588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Summary] The second extraordinary convoy of fighters of His Holiness Muhammad left Zahedan for the battlefield this morning.

The third convoy of rapid dispatch popular forces, under the title of fighters of His Holiness Muhammad, accompanied by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahfuzi, the representative of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri at Tehran University, as well as Hojjat ol-Eslam Taheri Khorramabadi, a member of the Qom seminary teaching staff, left Qom for the battlefields.

A number of trained soldiers of the 77th Division of the 8th Imam, under the title Special Deployment on the Occasion of Eid-e Ghadir Qom, left Mashhad for the operational zones.

Also today, all districts and towns of Gilan Province witnessed the dispatch of their children to the operational zones. Fighters left Astara, Talesh, Bandar-e Anzali, Sowma'eh Sara, Fowman, Rasht, Rudsar, Langarud, Lahijan, and Bazar-e Masal, to fight the enemy.

A large number of fresh mobilization forces from Sari, Babol, Qa'emshahr, Behshahr, and Babol Sar left their homes for the frontlines yesterday and today.

A great convoy left for the fronts from Zanjan. Ayatollah Seyyed Esma'il Musavi, the imam's representative and Friday prayer leader of Zanjan, as well as Mr Musavi, the governor general and Friday prayer leader of (Khodabandeh), and Majlis representatives from Zanjan were among the convoy.

Combat specialist forces also left Yazd and Abar Kuh to go to the fronts. Ayatollah Khatemi, the imam's representative in Yazd Province, also left for the fronts with the fighters.

Trained forces from districts of Firuz Kuh also were sent to the fronts.

Also in reply to an invitation from the Tehran Friday prayer leader, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Yahya Ja'fari, the imam's representative and Friday prayer leader in Kerman, went to the fronts. Two of Kerman's Majlis deputies and the Majlis deputy from Bafq accompanied others to the frontlines.

Employees of the Kazerun telecommunications office and of the Kazerun Martyrs' Foundation went to the fronts.

Forces from Fars and Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh, as well as Tehran University students, professors, and employees, and the deputy prime minister in charge of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, accompanied by a number of that organizations's directors from Tehran, Bushehr, and Esfahan went to the fronts along with other civil servants and clerics.

Forces From Gilan, Fars Provinces

LD3107131988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Continuing the rapid dispatch of fresh mobilization forces to the fronts, the entire Islamic homeland today witnessed the enthusiastic departure scenes of various sections of the people to the fronts.

According to the Central News Unit, a large number of mobilization forces consisting of workers, laborers, students, shopkeepers, and craftsmen from Gilan Province today left for the fronts from Rasht, Rudsar, Rudbar, Astara, Taleh, Larijan, Langrud, and Fowman.

Today thousands of mobilization forces and government employees from the cities of Darab, Jahrom, and Khvaf in Fars Province also left for the fronts.

The Central News Unit also states that a large number of those obedient to the imam including employees of the offices of the Education Ministry, the municipality, mobilization forces, and other groups from the cities of Shabestar, Istgah-e Sharafkhaneh, (Khameneh), Yasuj, and the surrounding villages left for the fronts of the holy defense along with Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi, the Friday imam of Shabestar.

In addition, the special convoy of obedience to the imam from Tabriz including office and factory workers and educators from Azarbayjan-e Khavari Province and a group of the mobilization forces of the cities of (Karibar), Shabestar, (?Ariz), Soltanabad and Osku this morning left for the fronts of the battle of light against darkness with an enthusiastic send-off from the Hezbollah people of Tabriz.

According to IRNA, Messrs (Harichi) and (Chirchia), two of the Majlis deputies from Tabriz are accompanying that convoy.

Today a group of mobilization forces and the education cadres from the Education Ministry office in Minaneh also left for the fronts. Hundreds of basijis mobilization forces from (Tabojbalaq) and (Tareqan), along with those Majlis deputies from those regions, and the Friday imam of (Tareqan) departed for the fronts.

The convoy of the corps of his holiness Muhammad, may God's peace be upon him and his scion, from the island of Hormoz also left this morning for the fronts of justice against injustice. According to the Central News Unit, the convoy, which consisted of a large number of combat forces from Hormoz Island, left for the fronts after a march through the streets of that city.

A number of the employees of Tehran's social provision organization also left for the fronts today. In addition, a convoy of the mobilization forces from the city of Na'in left for the fronts today.

Prayer Leaders Depart

LD3107181288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] In continuation of the dispatch of volunteer forces to the war fronts in order to confront the enemy's aggressions, thousands of popular forces were dispatched to the fronts today from several provinces. These provinces are Markazi, Khorasan, Mazandaran, Esfahan, Azarbayjan-e Khavari, Azarbayjan Bakhtari, Semnan, Ilam, Khuzestan, Hormozgan, Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh, and the city of Tehran.

Furthermore, in reply to the invitation of the president and Friday prayer leader of Tehran, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, to the Friday prayer leaders from all over the country to go to the fronts, today the Friday prayer leaders from Marand, Esfahan, Khvansar, Yazd, Dowlatabad, Sarband, Maragheh, (Malekan), 'Ajab Shir, Tabas, and Hamidiyeh of Ahvaz set on their way to the war fronts.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Heights in Northwest Liberated

LD2907172588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] According to a General Command Headquarters report from the northwestern theater of operation, the brave warriors of the army of Islam, consisting of the self-sacrificers of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces and the sacrificers of the IRGC, early today in a successful operation managed to clear the (Dashte-e Shilat) area from the filth of the enemy presence.

They have taken up positions there and in the course of their operations managed to liberate seven important heights, Nos 1782, 1719, 1613, 2290, 2190, 2170, and 1555, as well as two important access points to the region in the south and north. During the operation a large quantity of enemy equipment including 10 tanks and a number of machine guns, along with a number of enemy vehicles, arms, and ammunition were taken undamaged.

The proud Air Force pilots bombed enemy troop and armor concentrations in the southern operational theater. After inflicting heavy losses and damage on the enemy, they all returned safely to their bases.

Air Force Continues Sea Patrols

LD2907192788 Tehran IRNA in English 1818 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA—Iranian Air Force reconnoitered 42 war and cargo ships on Thursday during their patrol flight over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Iranian naval forces checked activities of three Iraqi vessels near Khawr 'Abdallah, and Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah platforms over Thursday and Friday.

Marivan Area Chemically Bombed

LD3007085388 Tehran IRNA in English 0834 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Sanandjaz, Kordestan Prov., July 30, IRNA—Ten civilians were wounded in Friday afternoon Iraqi chemical bombardment of Bilo [placename as received] village outside Marivan, in northwest Iran.

Relief teams and chemical defence units rushed to the area to help the victims and clear the area of the poisonous substances.

Iraq Suffers 'Heavy Losses'

LD3007104688 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—Iraqi forces employing armoured, infantry and artillery units launched a fresh attack in Mehran operational region, central sector of war fronts Friday night which was crushed by the Muslim forces of Iran.

The Muslim combatants inflicted heavy losses and damage on the Iraqi forces and are reportedly fighting off the enemy troops.

Meanwhile another Iraqi attack in Zayd operational region, southern fronts, Friday night was totally repelled and the Iraqis retreated after suffering heavy casualties and damage.

In Al-Faw region, north of the Persian Gulf, Muslim forces of Iran attacked several enemy boats attempting to approach positions of the Iranian forces in the region Friday night. Few [as received] of the boats were destroyed and casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

Iraqi Army Retreats to Border

LD3007164588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] According to the latest reports from western operational theaters, the aggressor Iraqi Army has retreated as far back as international borders in some areas following the victorious operations of the forces of Islam in the region.

Sar-e Pol-e Zahab 'Liberated'

LD3007185088 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants, after liberating the western towns of Eslamabad-e Gharb and Kerend in Bakhtaran Prov., advanced towards the border town of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab today and took it back from the invading enemy troops.

According to a report by the General Command Headquarters, Iranian advance to force enemy troops to retreat to the international border, is continuing.

Command HQ Reports Successes

LD3107110388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] The General Command Headquarters reports that the fighters of Islam are continuing their advance toward the international border and have continued their victories in the western operational theater, mopping up areas occupied by the enemy and liberating the town of Sare-e Pol-e Zahab.

In the early hours of this morning, the fighters of Islam liberated the town of Qasr-e Shirin and eliminated the filthy presence of the aggressor Iraqi forces.

At 0430 today, the fighters of Islam completely repelled a feeble enemy offensive on the Shiler heights. They inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, killing or wounding hundreds of enemy troops and capturing a number of them.

This morning, IRGC fighrers and brave tribesmen from Ilam Province drove the enemy back from the (Malekshahi) sector. They liberated more than 40 square km of our Islamic homeland.

Sumar Reported 'Liberated'

LD3107165288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] According to a report from General Command Headquarters, the brave fighters of the army of Islam's recent victories in the operational areas of western Iran have resulted in the liberation of areas occupied by the enemy in this region and to the mopping up of Eslamabad, Karand and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. They have succeed in liberating Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar. The fighters cleansed these cities of the filth of the aggressive Iraqi Army while advancing toward the international border.

Pakistan

Soviet Allegations of Accord Violation Denied

BK3107171588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] The Senate has been assured that Pakistan has faithfully observed its obligations under the Geneva accord and is committed to do so in future as well. The assurance was given to the Senate today by the minister for justice, Mr Wasim Sajjad, while replying to identical adjournment motions by Mr Tariq Chowdhury and Mr Javed Jabbar about the reported Soviet statements alleging violation of Geneva accords by Pakistan.

The justice minister described the allegations as incorrect. He said the Pakistan Government has arranged on-site inspection visits by UN military observers to substantiate its replies in accordance with the procedure prescribed under the Geneva accords.

The UN teams have visited the entire length of the border with Afghanistan from Chitral to Quetta and inspected all kinds of vehicular traffic to inquire into complaints regarding transshipment of arms. They also visited locations described by the Kabul regime as so-called training camps and military depots.

The justice minister referred to the recent visit of Mr Diego Cordovez during which he personally went to a border outpost in the Landi Kotal area and a refugee camp in Peshawar and expressed satisfaction at the cooperation being extended by Pakistan to UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission on Afghanistan and Pakistan].

He emphasized that assertions about Pakistan's non-compliance with Geneva accords by Kabul and Soviet sides, before the result of investigations by UN observers has been made available, amounts to unilateral and arbitrary allegations which contravene the spirit of Geneva accords.

Mr Wasim Sajjad said Pakistan has also registered several complaints with UNGOMAP. We have followed the laid down procedure instead of resorting to propaganda exercises. He said there have been more than 92 ground violations of Pakistan's territory and 20 violations of its airspace since the Geneva accords came into force.

Pakistan has handed over to the UNGOMAP a detailed list giving locations of training camps maintained by Kabul for saboteurs and terrorists for infiltration into Pakistan. There have also been repeated incidents of Soviet involvement in military actions against Mujahidin. There are also reports that the withdrawing Soviet troops are transferring massive quantities of arms and equipment worth billions [as heard] of dollars to Kabul regime forces.

The justice minister said Kabul regime's propaganda and allegations should be assessed in the light of the regime's nervousness at mujahidin's success and prospects of Soviet withdrawal. The Afghan people, he emphasized, reject this regime and have intensified their struggle against it.

He pointed out that it is now widely recognized that the formation of a government acceptable to Afghan people is vital for peace inside Afghanistan and for voluntary return of refugees. The motions were not pressed after the minister's statement.

Junejo's Muslim League To Take Part in Elections

BK3107171088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1658 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Karachi, July 31 (AFP)—Former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said here Sunday that his Pakistan Muslim League would take part in non-party general elections scheduled to be held on November 16.

But Mr. Junejo, whose conservative government was dismissed by President Mohammed Ziaul Haq on May 30, told a news conference that his party would go to the Supreme Court if the polls were delayed past the scheduled date.

General Zia, who also dissolved Parliament on May 30 to pave the way for new elections, announced the election date on July 20 and the following day said the polls would be held on a non-party basis.

Under the Constitution, the elections should have been held within 90 days of the dissolution of Parliament but Gen. Zia said new electoral rolls had not been prepared or constituencies redrawn on the basis of a 1981 census.

Mr. Junejo, speaking at his home, said non-party polls would in effect be party-based because all political groups would support individual candidates.

He had no plans to challenge the non-party elections in the Supreme Court though the Muslim League could easily have obtained a verdict in its favor, he said.

A court case would have provided Gen. Zia with an excuse to further delay the elections, he said.

The Pakistan Muslim League, over which he presides, had participated in similar non-party elections arranged by Gen. Zia in 1985, Mr. Junejo noted.

Asked if he had had contact with Pakistan Peoples Party [PPP] leader Benazir Bhutto, Mr. Junejo said he had met two PPP representatives recently but there had been no direct talks with Ms. Bhutto so far.

He said he would meet any political leader in the interest of democracy, adding that there could be no parliamentary system if political parties were barred from full participation in the democratic process.

The League will start its campaign as soon as the election schedule was announced to mobilise support for League-backed candidates, he said.

Mr. Junejo said he would disclose unpublished information during the campaign about an April explosion at a munitions dump in Rawalpindi which killed more than 100 people and wounded more than 1000.

Ziaul Haq on Partyless Poll, Other Issues

BK3007153088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq had informal talks with editors of national dailies and magazines in Rawalpindi this afternoon. Answering questions, the president said he thinks the majority of Pakistanis are in favor of holding elections on a nonparty basis.

He said the elections, God willing, will be held on 16 November. They will be held on a nonparty basis, but will not be nonpolitical.

In reply to a question, the president said the candidates in the November elections should emerge on the basis of their own capability and performance and there will be no restrictions on the political parties if they support them.

Laws relating to elections are being formulated, he added. He emphasized that political parties should represent the people of the country and they should be of national character.

They should fully conform to the standard of a national party. He regretted that the political system could not develop and most of the political parties failed to undergo the political process. The political parties should appropriately make themselves disciplined and stabilized and elections within the party should be held.

The president said the political parties should themselves make their system democratic. The nature of political parties at present conforms to that of pressure groups.

He welcomed the healthy sign of an end to the Iran-Iraq war and hoped this would be helpful to the Islamic community. Pakistan has friendly and brotherly relations with both Iran and Iraq and both of them have now acknowledged that Pakistan's policy was correct. He said Pakistan is ready to help both countries in every possible way.

In reply to a question, the president expressed hope the Afghanistan issue would soon be resolved. It has been Pakistan's effort to improve relations with the USSR and to maintain the existing cordial relations with the United States, the president added.

Ziaul Haq Expects 'Understanding' With India

BK0108042588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed confidence that the day is not far off when an understanding will be reached between Pakistan and India. In an interview with the German quarterly magazine (INDO-ASIA), he said the two countries should adopt a path of reconciliation for the sake of their mutual interest as the security of the region depends on relations between the two countries.

Explaining Pakistan's efforts in this regard, the president mentioned the offer of the nonaggression pact which has not been accepted by India. India, on the other hand, has proposed a treaty of friendship with Pakistan.

Any agreement can become a friendship agreement in a real sense because what is needed to bring two neighboring countries closer to each other is a pledge they will resort to reconciliation instead of aggression.

In reply to a question on the Islamization process in Pakistan, the president termed as incorrect the Western perception that Islam is against the West or modernity. The president said this is not correct. Islam is a progressive religion which has always encouraged new and progressive thought.

Ziaul Haq Attends PRC, Egyptian Receptions

BK0108042888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] In Islamabad yesterday evening, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq attended a reception hosted by the PRC ambassador on the 61st anniversary of the People's Liberation Army [PLA].

During his meeting with the Chinese envoy, the president wished progress to the PLA and conveyed his highest appreciation for the role played by the Army in defending the independence and security of China. He conveyed good wishes for the people and the Government of China on behalf of the people and the Government of Pakistan.

The president also attended another reception hosted by Egyptian Ambassador (Muhammad Sami Helba) on the national day of Egypt. He asked the Egyptian envoy to convey his message of good wishes and greetings to President Husni Mubarak.